

Wall Street's fight back as shares plunge

City struggles back after £14bn slump

By John Bell, City Editor

Wall Street restored some of investors' confidence last night when share prices there held firm after the previous day's heavy falls.

Yesterday London recorded its sharpest fall since Black Monday in October, following New York's earlier plunge.

The City wiped more than £14 billion off the value of the market in the first minutes of trading as dealers adjusted prices.

The FTSE 100 index shed more than 79 points by shortly after 9am — its heaviest decline since the October bloodbath.

The swiftness and severity of the fall gave rise initially to fears that a second stage of the crash might be under way.

A modest rally later trimmed some of the falls and the FTSE index closed at 1730.3, a loss of 60.8 on the day.

The pound soared more than three cents against the dollar on London foreign exchanges as the friendless US currency reacted to the wave of selling in the Far East and the US during the Christmas break.

Steady leapt from the Christmas eve closing level of \$1.8530 to \$1.8665 immediately trading started at 8am.

There was concerted action by leading central banks which last week pledged to support the dollar under the Group of Seven agreement on economic co-operation.

The West German, Swiss, Italian and Japanese authorities bought dollars during the day, London dealers said that.

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the Bank of England and the US Federal Reserve were also active.

The dollar responded to the banks' intervention recouping some of its losses to close at \$1.8585 against the pound. It also regained some of its fall against the German mark and the yen.

Dealers had expected share prices to tumble after the steep falls experienced in Tokyo and on Wall Street over the weekend as a result of the fresh decline in the dollar which dipped to its lowest level since the Second World War, but were still shocked at the severity of the reaction.

Fears that the US authorities will let their currency take the strain of their huge trade and budget problems induced some selling after the market-makers' early defensive move to lower prices sharply.

Attendance in many City firms was light — some down by nearly 50 per cent — due to extended holidays. The few on duty were undecided as to the likely trend of the market and for long periods, share prices marked time awaiting Wall Street's opening.

When the Dow Jones Industrial Average opened with a better-than-expected small loss, dealers were tempted to buy some cheap lines of stock. That helped prices in most cases to close above their lowest levels of the day.

The heaviest fallers were shares in companies with substantial dollar income. Glaxo ended 47p lower at £10.

Tomorrow

The New Year's Honours List, always a major talking point, will be published in full in The Times tomorrow

IN PART 2 IMF loans

The International Monetary Fund is to lead an extra \$8.4 billion to its poorest member countries, mainly in Africa. Page 17

Sporting lines

The Times today presents a full page of sporting quotes of the year. Page 26

Portfolio

There is £4,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio Gold competition today. Yesterday's £4,000 prize was won by a reader from Northamptonshire. Details, page 3

Portfolio list, page 21.

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Peers to seek 'on demand' abortion

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff

Mr David Alton's campaign to ban late abortions is expected to be backed by a powerful committee of peers in its report next February.

However, the report could couple the committee's support with a recommendation that abortions be allowed on demand until the twelfth week of pregnancy, a suggestion which will infuriate the strong pro-life lobby.

Publication of the committee's investigation into the abortion laws is due to coincide with the start of the committee stage in the Commons of Mr Alton's private Bill to stop terminations after the eighteenth week of pregnancy.

One committee member told *The Times* that the idea of abortion on demand up to the twelfth week would be "difficult for a lot of people to swallow". However, the committee has been repeatedly told by witnesses that where abortion on demand is available up to the twelfth week, as in the United States and Sweden, the need for later abortions is greatly reduced.

The committee is likely to recommend that late abortions should be carried out only under strict criteria, for instance where a baby is found to be severely handicapped. It has sympathy with Mr Alton's attempt to stem the flood of women from Ireland, France and Spain to private abortion clinics in Britain, particularly after the 18th week.

The Liberal MP already has the support of 140 MPs for his Bill, which is down for a second reading debate on January 22. He is planning to intensify his personal crusade this month to portray London as "the abortion capital of the world". It includes the screening of *Eclipse of Reason*, a film showing the dismemberment of a baby in the womb.

Although only a Bill is aimed at outlawing late abortions, he is known to object to all abortions and surrendered his position as Liberal chief whip in order to concentrate on his Bill.

The House of Lords select committee, chaired by Lord Brightman, a law lord, was set up to look at the merits of the Infant Life Preservation (Amendment) Bill introduced by Dr Hugh Montefiore, the former Bishop of Birmingham. It fell with the general election, but was reintroduced by Lord Houghton of Sowerby, a Labour peer, who wanted the committee's work completed even though he disagreed with the Bill's aims.

Other committee members include Lady Warnock, Lady Faithfull and the Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Rev John Yates.

03, ICI was 47p down at £11.11p, Rockit & Colman ended 20p easier at 790p, and Jaguar shed 25p to 317p. Bats Industries was 17p off at 441p.

Composite Insurances were also badly affected on fears about their exposure to the dollar. Commercial Union, bought recently on revived talk of a bid from Allianz, the large West German insurance group, dropped 14p to 341p.

General Accident lost 34p to 819p, and GHE dipped 25p to 848p, Royal declined 7p to 407p and Sun Alliance gave up 23p to 965p. Almost all of the recently favoured takeover stocks sustained heavy falls.

Gift-edged stocks, however, rose as several nervous dealers switched from equities into gilts.

Dealers made their way home last night unsure as to where the market would go next. One suggested that if Wall Street remains steady and confines its fall to within 20 points, the London market will rally today.

After London markets closed last night, the Dow Jones Average slipped further showing a fall of 10.78 to 1932.19 in mid session. In New York the dollar eased after its boost from central bank support in quiet trading.

The Federal reserve intervention in currency markets coincided with a renewed plea by the White House for a stable dollar but dealers remained doubtful about US determination to prevent a further fall in the US currency.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is on holiday, was kept in touch with market movements throughout the day by Treasury officials.

Although he did not comment on the day's events, he was said to stand by his previously expressed view that the British economy was fundamentally sound.

Mr Lawson was said to regard the continuing encouraging figures for indices such as inflation, output and jobs as a better barometer of the true state of the economy than the plunging equity markets.

But Mr John Smith, the Shadow Chancellor, said the latest slide undermined the need for an early meeting of the Group of Seven.

"The fundamental problem is the failure of Western countries to manage the relationships between their currencies successfully."

"Governments have abandoned the control of currencies to markets and markets are unable to cope."

Soviet cosmonauts return from space



A smiling Commander Romanenko talking to reporters after his capsule landed yesterday

Russian endures 326 days in orbit

From A Correspondent, Moscow

Commander Yuri Romanenko yesterday landed safely with two cosmonaut colleagues in Soviet Kazakhstan at the end of a record-breaking mission in which he clocked up 326 days in orbit on board the space station Mir.

The Soyuz TM-3 capsule carrying Commander Romanenko and Flight-engineer Aleksandr Alexandrov and Mr Anatoly Levchenko back to Earth, parachuted down on target near the town of Arkalyk in Soviet Central Asia.

The landing was reported live on Soviet television, although pictures of the touchdown were not immediately available.

Mission Control announced: "We have touchdown" breaking into the television commentary as jubilant officials in the control room could be seen raising their hands in victory.

On their return to Earth, the three cosmonauts were awarded the Order of Lenin, the Soviet Union's highest civilian honour, after a decree issued by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. The award was conferred on the three for successfully carrying out their mission and for their "courage and heroism" displayed during the flight.

But before the landing, the cosmonauts had a blazing space row with ground control. *Izvestia* reported yesterday. It said the argument started when Commander Romanenko and his colleagues were preparing to return to Earth and ground control reminded them to bring back results of space experiments.

"Since yesterday we have been spinning round here like squirrels in a wheel," a voice was quoted as shouting over the space laboratory's radio. "What with experiments and loading, we still have not had time to pack our personal things and you are distracting us with unnecessary nagging."

"Get rid of all those unnecessary staff at mission control. We have our instructions and are doing our best," *Izvestia* quoted the voice as saying.

The government newspaper, which called the incident a mutiny, did not say who made the comments, but according to space practice it is the commander who speaks to ground control.

Commander Romanenko, aged 43, is expected to be reunited with his wife.

Continued on page 16, col 7

Thousands of Germans face 'Nazi' inquiries

From John England, Bonn

West Germany is about to face its biggest wave of war crimes allegations in years as evidence uncovered from the recently-opened United Nations archives is passed to government prosecuting authorities for full investigation.

About 4,500 names will be in the New Year be passed to prosecution offices in the areas throughout Germany where suspects are currently living.

The allegations, sifted from the war crimes files held in secret for more than 40 years by the UN in New York, have already been checked by the Nazi War Crimes Centre at Ludwigsburg, near Stuttgart.

According to the centre's director, Herr Alfred Streim, a number of leading industrialists and political figures are among those who will come under investigation by local prosecutors, although he declined to name them.

The government-funded centre received 30,000 names of both suspects and witnesses through what it describes as "diplomatic channels" in the autumn, and has since been making its own inquiries.

Herr Streim said a number of the names were known to the centre, which took over the pursuit of war criminals from the Western Allies 29 years ago, but that charges had not been preferred for lack of evidence.

It would now be up to public prosecutors to decide if trials should be ordered against the suspects, most of whom have been living perfectly ordinary lives since the war.

Inquiries into others on the list of 30,000 were continuing, he said. "We have enough work to keep us in business for years," he said.

All those among the initial batch of 4,500 are suspected of murder, for which there is no statute of limitations in Germany.

"Most of the people named were either SS policemen or guards in Poland or France who committed excesses," he said. "They probably thought they had been overlooked among the hunt for senior SS men suspected of war crimes."

Herr Streim believes that many of the suspects may not come before the courts because they are now in their eighties and, like several other elderly suspects in recent years, will be able to find doctors who will pronounce them "unfit".

Nevertheless, the very opening of such investigations, particularly on such a wide scale, will create major protests from right-wing politicians and crack communities which thought they had already come to terms with events they would rather forget.

Murdered children in car boot

16 die in shooting rampage

From Charles Bremner, New York

An Arkansas man who went on a shooting rampage on Monday is now suspected of killing at least 16 people in one of the year's grisliest mass murders. The bodies of nine more members of his family were discovered yesterday.

Police found seven bodies in shallow graves, and the corpses of two children in the boot of a car at the home of Gene Simmons, aged 47 and unemployed, who gave himself up without a struggle after shooting his way across the small town of Russellville on Monday.

The bodies were believed to be those of Simmons' wife, four children and other relations.

During his rampage, the former air-force sergeant killed two people and wounded four others at a lawyers' firm and the offices of an oil company where he had previously worked.

Police then found the bodies of four adults and a child in a gruesome scene at his house at Dover, 20 miles away. The Christmas tree lights were burning, presents lay unopened in the living room and a holiday meal was half-cooked in the kitchen.

Police and neighbours could give no explanation for the murders.

Mr Herb Johnson, the Russellville police chief who captured Simmons said: "I just said 'I want to talk to you and I want you to give up your guns' and he died."

The incident occurred three weeks after the country's worst mass murder. A San Francisco man killed 45 people and himself by bringing down an airliner. The FBI said he boarded the plane with a revolver, shot an airline official who had dismissed him in November and then killed the pilots and sent the plane into a dive.

There have been a number of incidents this year involving men with grudges. In Florida last April an elderly man went berserk in a shopping centre, killing six people.

Despite such incidents there have been few efforts to restrict gun sales. Florida, which has the highest murder rate, this year relaxed controls on the sale of firearms.



Gene Simmons appearing in court yesterday

Cool TV reception for claims of 'bias to Left'

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A row about alleged left wing bias on the part of several of Britain's foremost television current affairs programmes broke out last night following a report from a right-of-centre monitoring body.

The Media Monitoring Unit, which is funded by private business, claimed that many programmes failed to maintain the political impartiality required by law.

Following its six-month survey, the unit highlights numerous cases of bias — mostly, it says, favouring the Left.

Granada's *World In Action*, BBC's *Heart of the Matter* and the controversial *Secret Society* series "flagrantly disregarded" the requirement for political balance.

Last night the complaints were being treated with suspicion by TV chiefs. Granada said: "We take seriously complaints from all quarters, however eccentric and ill-intentioned." The BBC said: "In general terms we strongly deny suggestions that our programmes contain institutional bias."

Full report: page 2

Mr Terry Ramsden, the self-made millionaire, is selling most of his large string of racehorses.

The sale could earn Mr Ramsden, aged 35, £1 million for his plans to put about 45 of his 75 horses on the market. His string includes Stagsby, which won the Welsh Grand National in 1986, and Motivator, a winner of several good hurdle races.

Mr Ramsden, who made his fortune on the Japanese warrant market, has suffered a difficult year. He is awaiting trial on charges of fraudulently evading VAT payments totalling £500,000 on stock exchange dealings and he was brought before Tattersalls, racing's governing body, to explain betting debts of more than £1 million.

He has been hard hit too by the world's stock market crash.

Last night, Mr Ramsden's spokeswoman said: "I do not believe there is any connection between the sale of his horses and the stock market crash. It has always been a long-term ambition for Terry to have a really quality stable. He is reviewing his investments all the time."

In the past he has always forgotten his worries by turning to the race track. He is a ferocious punter, reputed to have won more than £1 million in one day, and his horses, even the unsuccessful ones, have been close to his heart.

Mr Mick Miller, his racing manager, said: "We are going to try and run the racing interest as a business. It is inevitable that in such a large string

we have some disappointments. Quite a few horses will be sold but we hope to keep the top class ones, unless we get an offer we cannot refuse."

Mr Miller added that the target was to cut the string to 30 quality horses and that it might take a year to achieve.

The sale appeared to surprise some of Mr Ramsden's trainers yesterday. Mr Alan Bailey said at his Newmarket stable: "Mr Ramsden bought 10 yearlings for this stable at the autumn sales and I hadn't a clue he intended to sell many of his horses."

Mr Rod Simpson, who trains at Lambourn, Berkshire, said: "Mr Ramsden is just trying to clear the bottom rung to make more room at the top for better horses. I have been asked to clear out the selling platters,

those which will not stand training and those with bad pins."

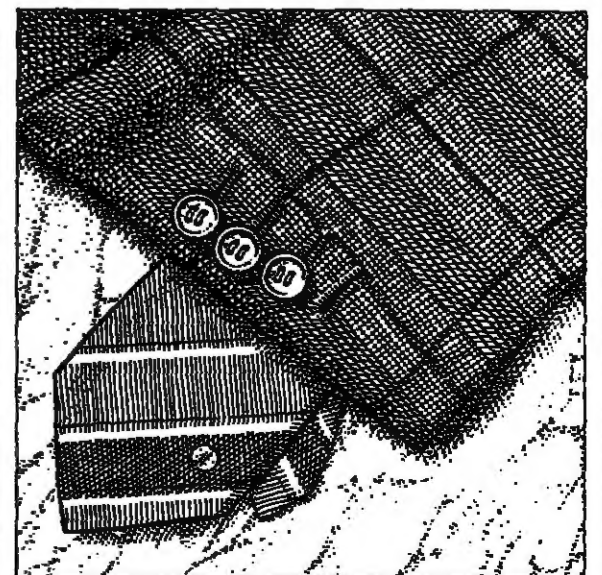
However, Mr Michael Ryan who has trained some of Mr Ramsden's most successful horses at his Newmarket stable, including Stagsby, said: "I have not heard from Mr Ramsden for four months."

Mrs Jenny Pittman, who trains 15 horses for Mr Ramsden said: "I do not discuss my owners' business with anyone."

Mr Ramsden, who has a flat in the Barbican in London, a house in Essex, an estate in Scotland and homes in Bermuda, Portugal and Finland, is now on honeymoon after marrying Miss Lisa Sales, aged 22, at a church near his old home in Enfield, North London.

Continued on page 16, col 7

THE DUNHILL SALE IS NOW ON AT HARVEY NICHOLS



Reductions on cotton shirts, silk ties, jackets, knitwear and luxury accessories for men.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Oldest woman dies, aged 114

Mrs Anna Williams, believed to be the oldest woman in the world, died in a Swansea nursing home yesterday at the age of 114.

Mrs Williams, who was born in Burford, Gloucestershire, when Gladstone was in power and Queen Victoria just over halfway through her reign, moved to Swansea as a teenager, married a coachman and had one daughter, now aged 80. All Mrs Williams's seven brothers and sisters lived to be over 90, and one sister died aged 101.

Mrs Williams, a non-smoker who drank alcohol only on birthdays and attributed her longevity to a strict "no-pills" policy and a "meat and two veg" diet, claimed the title of the world's oldest person last June, when the previous claimant died in America. Several others maintained they were older, but only Mrs Williams had documents verifying her birth.

Her successor is believed to be Mrs Maren Torp from Norway, who was 111 last week. Swansea claims to have the oldest man, Mr John Evans, aged 110.

Killer escapes

Police were last night hunting a convicted killer who absconded from a top security mental unit on Merseyside.

Paul West, aged 29, who was convicted of manslaughter in 1978, was released, unescorted, on parole from the Scott Clinic, Rainhill, to attend a catering course but failed to return.

Two prisoners were being sought yesterday after breaking out of Stamford Hill prison on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent. Michael Brown, aged 22, and Steven Wooten, aged 21, both from London, are convicted of burglary.

Search for girl grows

Police widened their search yesterday for Kirsty Duggan, the Worthing schoolgirl missing for nine days, and said they do not suspect foul play.

The girl, aged 14, was last seen setting out on her paper round but police with dogs have found neither her nor her bicycle. She is five foot four and was wearing a white mini-skirt and a blue grey anorak.

Mr Matthew and Mrs Pauline Duggan, her parents, said at their home in Grand Avenue, Worthing, Sussex: "We just wish she would let us know that she is all right".

Spycatcher warning

A provincial newspaper editor has been warned that he could face prosecution after his newspaper published an advertisement for the book, *Spycatcher*.

The written warning to Mr John Bird, editor of the *Scarborough Evening News*, included an undertaking that he would not carry any more advertisements for the book by Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer.

Mr Keith Parker, president of the Guild of British Newspaper Editors, said the move by the Treasury Solicitor's office was "judicious and preposterous".

The letter to Mr Bird warned him that unless an undertaking was given to not carry further advertisements, instructions would be initiated for alleged contempt of court.

Oxford in hospital

Mr Kenneth Oxford, the Chief Constable of Merseyside, is in hospital with a back injury after falling from a ladder at his home in Rainford, Merseyside.

Mr Oxford, aged 63, was in a "comfortable" condition last night in Whiston Hospital, Merseyside.

His wife said: "He has had a pretty bad fall off a step ladder and will be kept in overnight. Thankfully he is not seriously hurt".

Dogs find homes

Ninety-eight unwanted pets found a new home yesterday when Battersea Dogs Home in south-west London opened its doors for its post-Christmas sale.

Nearly half of the 711 dogs in the home are expected to be sold over the next three days. One of the first to go yesterday was a mongrel aged 10 weeks bought for £25 by a woman and her daughter aged four.

The first 100 post-Christmas buyers are being given a dog blanket, a towel, a feeding bowl, a mat and food by a pet food company.

The home took in a record 22,000 dogs this year, 1,000 more than last year.

Call for disaster fund

The Government was urged yesterday to set up a national disaster fund. Mr Patrick Cormack, Tory MP for Staffordshire South, said this would be a sensible step at the end of a year which had seen the Herald of Free Enterprise ferry sinking at Zeebrugge, the Enniskillen Poppy Day massacre, the King's Cross Underground fire and the devastation of the autumn gales.

Mr Cormack said: "There could be no more appropriate Christmas gesture by the Government than to set aside a sum of between £10 million and £20 million to form the basis of a national disaster fund."

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Media survey condemns 'distortion' TV presenters accused of left-wing bias

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

Television's current affairs presenters are resorting to sensational, tabloid-style language as they depict modern Britain in a strongly negative way and indulge in crude anti-Americanism, according to a survey published yesterday.

It says that there has been a disturbing trend towards greater use of emotive vocabulary in current affairs reporting, accompanied by more "potentially distorting" dramatized "reconstructions" of alleged incidents involving politicians, police and immigration officers where fact and fiction were often blurred.

The review of current affairs programmes was carried out by the London-based Media Monitoring Unit, a centre-right monitoring group, which is funded by a group of private businessmen chaired by Sir Peter Tennant.

It says that although the general election coverage was a triumph for impartial, balanced broadcasting, most series often failed to be politically balanced and were

Tories to hold technology conference

By Robert Matthews
Technology Correspondent

The Bow Group, worried about the Government's stance on technology, has organized a top-level conference at which Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Trade and Industry, will be asked to explain official policy.

Senior members of the Conservative group believe that recent moves by the Government, such as its reluctance to participate in European space programmes, have left considerable uncertainty over Britain's technological future.

"We feel that we are not making the most of our technological resources and that there is a need to find more constructive ways of tackling the problem," Mr Dexter Smith, a member of the Bow Group council, said.

He said the conference, to be held in London in February, would aim at establishing what the Government's role should be in supporting research and development.

That had become more urgent since the decision by the Ministry of Defence to cut its research and development budget to a level where it would account for less than 50 per cent of total government research and development expenditure, Mr Smith said.

Technological companies serving the ministry would be forced to look elsewhere for contracts.

They should be told what the Government's attitude towards private sector research and development was, he said.

TUC urges a £7bn giveaway Budget

The Trades Union Congress yesterday called for an extra £7 billion of public expenditure to boost pensions, child benefits, housing and the health service.

In its spring Budget proposals, to be presented to Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, at the National Economic Development Council on January 13, the TUC also calls for an average increase of 1.5 per cent in personal allowances, rather than a 2p cut in the basic rate of income tax.

The £7 billion package includes:

- £300 million regional aid.
- A further £300 million for the inner cities, backed up with £150 million spending on housing, road and rail improvements and derelict land clearance.
- £750 million for the National Health Service.
- £100 million for development agencies, co-operatives and other local authority initiatives.
- An increase in retirement pensions of £8.75 for a couple and £5.90 for a single person.
- Increases of £2.50 in child

benefit and £2 in the single parent family allowance.

• £750 million more to help the unemployed.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said: "The economy may be enjoying a consumer boom now. But a nation that cannot treat its child, educate its children and look after its old folk will inevitably pay the price."

The TUC says that more than a third of Britain's families have missed out on the increase in national prosperity since 1983. The low paid in work and those receiving social benefits are falling behind the rest.

It says the main shift by Government away from deflationary monetarist policies has stimulated growth delivering higher wages, high profits, and - at least in some parts of the country - a growing affluence.

It gives a warning that if the economy stays on a high growth path the number of people left behind will grow unless the Government changes its policies.

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

	BBC1 Panorama	BBC1 Heart of the Matter	BBC2 Secret Society	ITV World in Action	ITV This Week	C4 Diverse Reports	C4 A Week in Politics
Total programmes monitored	21	5	6	21	21	19	15
Programmes with Left-wing bias	3	2	6	11	8	5	12
Programmes with Right-wing bias	12	0	0	0	1	2	1
Politically balanced programmes	4	3	0	5	11	8	12
Non-political programmes	14.3%	40%	100%	24%	28.6%	26.3%	80%
Proportion programmes	(17.6%)	0%	0%	(52.4%)	(52.4%)	(33.3%)	(5.5%)
Left-wing bias	9.5%	0%	0%	0%	4.8%	10.5%	8%
Right-wing bias	(11.8%)	0%	0%	(5.6%)	(5.6%)	(13.5%)	(5.5%)
Proportion balanced	(70.6%)	0%	0%	(23.3%)	(23.3%)	(48.1%)	(89%)
Proportion non-political	18.1%	60%	0%	23.4%	14.3	21.1%	10%

*Only 4 programmes broadcast. Articles closely resembling transcripts of remaining published by New Statesman.

†Represent the number of individual reports, not the number of programmes.

(Figures in round brackets indicate the percentage in relation to political programmes only, excluding non-political programmes).

often biased to the left. BBC2's *Secret Society* series, presented by Duncan Campbell, is said to be the worst culprit, attracting the unit's first 100 per cent bias rating, followed by Granada's *World in Action* and BBC1's *Heart of the Matter*. The most balanced programme was Channel 4's *A Week in Politics*.

Panorama, BBC's current affairs flagship, is said to have shown a dramatic improvement, almost halving the number of programmes with perceived left-wing bias, although the proportion of politically balanced programmes, 57.1 per cent, was "still disappointingly low".

The unit is scathing about the *Secret Society* series and the BBC's decision to commission as writer and presenter Mr Campbell, whose "partisan political views are well known".

The report says the series was consistently "anti-Nato, anti-British intelligence, anti-police, anti-establishment. There were no redeeming features." The series was also notable for the use Mr Campbell made of various colleagues who appeared on the programme without any due

to their real identity, it says.

The report is equally critical of Helena Kennedy, the presenter of *Heart of the Matter*, which it says clearly favoured the left. More than half the *World in Action* programmes were biased to the left, the unit says, concluding that in all three of those series the legal broadcasting requirement for political balance was flagrantly disregarded.

It says that while anti-Americanism re-asserted itself in "unashamedly" anti-Regan sentiments, *Panorama*, *World in Action*, *This Week* and Channel 4's *Diverse Reports* were particularly negative about Britain.

Criticizing current affairs reporters' "hyperbole" and sensational language, the report says *Panorama* and Jonathan Dimbleby's *This Week* were particularly at fault.

Mr Simon Clark, director of the unit, said yesterday: "All too often there is substantial net imbalance in favour of the left. Given that most of the current affairs series monitored acquitted themselves well during the general election campaign, the question

must be asked: Why can't they achieve the same level of impartiality at other times?"

The report also highlights a number of attacks on left-wing targets, including programmes made for Channel 4's *Diverse Reports* and Yorkshire Television's *7 Days*.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority said last night: "We will not be making any detailed comment until we have had time to study the findings of the report and, just as importantly, its methodology. We do our own monitoring and internal research which shows, and has shown year in year out, that most people think political programmes are balanced most of the time."

Media Monitoring Update, January to June 1987 (Media Monitoring Unit, 10 Barbican Way, London WC4E 3JF).

● The BBC last night dismissed reports of a management crisis over programme scheduling but admitted some "tension and discussion" over BBC2's *Newsnight* programme.

Women in View, page 9

Flexible hours are vital, says coal chief

By David Young
and Roland Radt

Sir Robert Haslam, the chairman of British Coal, has issued a clear signal to miners that dogmatic opposition to proposals for flexible working could result in more job losses and pit closures.

The alternative, he told British Coal staff in a New Year message, is a return to profit for the first time in more than 10 years and the ability to win a larger share of the British energy market.

Sir Robert avoided any reference to personalities in the industry and the fact that the National Union of Mineworkers is soon to decide whether Mr Arthur Scargill should remain as its leader.

However, he said flexible working had to be introduced in the industry to achieve financial stability. The main plank of Mr Scargill's NUM election campaign is that the present five-day working agreements must remain sacrosanct.

Sir Robert said: "There is nothing unusual about flexible working. Our customers, particularly the power stations and the steel works, keep equipment operating around the clock, seven days a week."

"Flexible working creates jobs and protects jobs. It does not threaten jobs. It is the key to our strategy to produce coal competitively."

Sir Robert's message comes at the end of a year in which miners have consistently broken productivity records.

"British Coal's strategy is to ensure that we remain a high-performance, high-earnings industry," Sir Robert said. "Mineworkers are at the top of the wages league for large industries and the record-breaking performances which ended the year show they have every intention of staying there."

● Fit deputies accused British Coal yesterday of trying to dupe them into accepting a pay award which would allow six-day working.

The deputies argue that if they accept a £14.50 weekly pay increase for an extra two hours' work, they will in effect be working a six-day week.

Mr Peter McNestry, general secretary of Naoods, the pit deputies' union, said: "British Coal has already admitted that the average deputy works 48 hours a week, or six days. Now it is saying, sign for the extra two hours' payment and we will pay you for the extra work."

British Coal said yesterday: "We have not asked them to work a six-day week. The British Coal offer relates to their present terms and conditions. They have asked us for another meeting and we are waiting for them to confirm the day."

Correction

Our report (December 23) of the Trade Descriptions Act convictions by Oxford magistrates against Currys wrongly stated that these resulted from the misapplication of their brand name "Matsui" and accompanying logo. In fact, it was their use of a slogan - discontinued more than a year ago - implying the Japanese origin of goods manufactured elsewhere which was held to be unlawful. We apologize for this error.

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Mr Nick Banting, of Harvey Nichols, with 90 minutes' worth of sales credit card slips (Photograph: James Gray).

Christmas sales

Credit cards lead way in bargain rush

By Ruth Gladhill

Up to nine out of 10 bargain hunters in yesterday's sales were using their credit cards to shop.

The country has run up more on credit than ever before this Christmas, and January is expected to be another record month.

Thousands of shoppers opened new credit card accounts yesterday to take advantage of high street sale bargains.

Banks and credit card companies said the increased spending on credit will not lead to a serious debt problem because most credit card shopping is done for convenience.

But they are waiting until January 21, when the bank lending figures are due to be released, to gauge the full effect of Christmas on credit and interest rates.

Access and Barclaycard are

already estimating a record Christmas on credit. Barclaycard sales on Access look likely to be 22 per cent up on last year with a turnover of more than £570 million. Sales on Barclaycard are set to top £620 million, an increase of 18 per cent.

At the Harvey Nichols department store in Knightsbridge, central London, the number of shoppers who had entered the store between opening time and midday yesterday, the first day of the sale, was up by 42 per cent on last year.

In 90 minutes, the store saw nearly 4,000 credit transactions pass through the tills, compared with little more than 400 sales by cash or cheque.

Mr Patrick Hanly, sales director, said: "A lot of people today like to knock credit

Clearly there is an element of bad debt and we have a provision for it. But we believe that customers who shop on credit here actually benefit considerably."

More than 75 per cent of sales will be on the in-house credit scheme this week, compared with 25 per cent last week. Most other shoppers will use Access, Barclaycard and American Express. Mr Hanly said: "If people use our scheme, they have a further 20 per cent off the sale price."

At the Liberty store in Regent Street, central London, more than 4,000 queued for the 9am opening, while staff at Selfridges near by in Oxford Street manned a one-way system around the store.

In Birmingham, parts of the city centre were again sealed off by police to all traffic except buses and taxis, as thousands of shoppers

crowded in for the second day of the sales. In Leeds and Manchester, stores started sales with record takings.

Shoppers justified their spending by saying that an item bought in a sale is not an extravagance.

Miss Pam Seymour, a local government officer from Lewisham, London, said: "I am one of these upwardly mobile shoppers. Because I am from a working class background I have been taught never to run up debts. I spent £200 on the Harvey Nichols store account, but I have money in the bank and I bought a coat I have wanted for years."

Mrs Selly Keane, aged 25, opened an account at Harvey Nichols yesterday to spend £500 in the sale. She said: "I only have this one card. I do not normally spend a lot in sales, but this one came along at just the right time."

Optimistic outlook for jobs

By Ronald Faux
Employment Affairs Correspondent

The prospects for jobs in Britain are good, in spite of continuing uncertainties in the City, according to a survey yesterday of employment prospects for the first quarter of 1988.

The survey, by *Manpower*, a temporary staff specialists, was taken at the height of the stock market crash. It showed that many employers planned to expand their workforces during the next three months, continuing the recent upward trend into what is traditionally the slowest time of year for job creation.

In the regions, employers planning to increase their workforce outnumbered those expecting to lay off workers and employment prospects were better than a year ago.

The survey was based on replies from more than 1,200 employers in England, Scotland and Wales employing more than three million workers.

NHS 'will sell its spare capacity'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A tax-funded National Health Service will remain the chief provider of health care but efforts will accelerate to create a market inside it, according to a report published today by the drugs industry.

Such a market would mean selling spare capacity between health authorities and the private sector, the report says. Moves towards it could reduce obstacles to change, "for example by stimulating local bargaining over terms and conditions."

The report, from the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries, says that ideologically based criticisms of the health service or its funding should not be allowed to obscure its successes.

"The NHS remains one of the lowest cost providers of comprehensive health care anywhere in the world. What is needed now is objective, factually based analyses of the NHS's current achievements and an open-minded approach."

However, real change would come only from a shift in attitude. Political parties could face pressure to offer tax relief and the right to opt out of the health service, if the level of private medical insurance cover reached 40 per cent, it says.

"But such an eventuality is probably outside the timescale of most practising politicians."

It adds that for the past 40 years nearly all British politicians accepted that the tax-funded NHS should be the monopoly provider of health care. That belief was beginning to change and it was

Ulster terrorist deaths up by half

Deaths through terrorist violence in Northern Ireland since the troubles began in August 1969.

Reported shooting incidents rose to more than 600 compared with 385 last year and explosions increased from 173 to 226.

Authorities in Northern Ireland are understood to be taking seriously intelligence reports from police in the Irish Republic that the Provisional IRA possesses a small number of Soviet made SA-7 short-range anti-aircraft missiles.

ambushed as they attacked the police station at Loughall, Co Armagh. Other terrorists included members of the Irish National Liberation Army killed during internal feuding.

Of the 93 dead, 66 were members of the public, including the terrorists. 16 were members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary or its reserve and eight were Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers. Three members of the regular Army also died. Their deaths raised to 2,618 the numbers killed

through violence in Northern Ireland since the troubles began in August 1969.

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مكتبة القرآن الكريم

Yard chief suggests driving permits to ease London traffic

By Stewart Tisdler, Crime Reporter

Permits for drivers to enter central London in peak hours might be one solution to the city's traffic congestion, according to the Metropolitan Police commissioner.

Mr Peter Imbert said Scotland Yard was concerned at the increasing volume of traffic in London, which would have to face some restrictions on private motoring to avoid choking under the pressure.

One possibility was to copy Singapore, where cars were allowed into the city centre at peak times only if they were carrying at least two passengers.

Enforcement there was carried out by special constables posted on key routes, but in London might become part of the traffic wardens' role.

Mr Imbert, who took over as head of the world's largest urban force five months ago, was describing his initial impressions of the most difficult police job in Britain and outlining his plans for the new year.

They include a campaign to accentuate the positive face of police work, with an emphasis on the "courtesy cop" seen to be fair, friendly but firm in dealings with the public on the city streets.

Another aim will be to underline the value of police work in improving the quality of urban life as well as maintaining the peace.

"I still see the answer to persuading the public to help us to help them is by having that stronger liaison with the public and that means making ourselves available when people are reaching out towards us", the commissioner said.

"The image of the police service concerns me quite considerably. I want people to know without any shadow of doubt that the police are there to serve."

"We are the approachable, caring and courteous cops. I think some people might have thought that had drifted away but it has not", Mr Imbert said.

A counselling service for police officers, believed to be the first of its kind, has been established in Warwickshire.

The service, intended to help officers who are suffering from pressure brought on by the job, is being staffed by volunteer officers.

Supt Tony Rollins, of the Warwickshire police, said: "The public expects a lot of police officers, but we can no longer expect them to cope alone with the kind of pressure they are under."

"We are the only force to use volunteer counsellors who work with the officers and who understand their problems. It could prove difficult for an outsider, however well trained, to offer the assistance needed."

The officers who are serving as part-time counsellors have dealt with a variety of marital, health, work and stress-related problems in the first few weeks of the scheme.

The counsellors can refer to outside agencies and psychologists if needed.

No particular cause célèbre had roused Mr Imbert's anxiety and he said the majority of policemen behaved admirably. But "what concerns me is that the abnormal has been treated almost as though it is the norm when there have been problem cases and I want the public to know it is abnormal."

In 1986 the number of reported serious crimes in London increased by 5 per cent. This year the crime figures are likely to show a drop of 4 per cent and this will include reductions in key areas such as burglaries. There will, however, still be rises in individual areas such as street robbery.

The one large shadow on the figures is that fact that the clear-up rate has slumped again: it fell by 2 per cent last year to 16 per cent.

Mr Imbert said the clear-up rate for the first part of the

year had been down because of the full effects of operating the Police and Criminal Evidence Act but started to pick up later in the year. Time would tell whether that could be maintained.

Mr Imbert said that if they looked at the number of clear-ups in London, between 100,000 and 150,000, and if those had been cleared up in 1960 "we would have cleared up practically every crime that had been committed."

Scotland Yard would continue to fight the rise of organized crime and the terror of the mugger in the inner city areas. Extra detectives have been drafted on to eight inner London divisions to target muggers.

The commissioner said much also had to be done by central and local government to fight street crime. He talked of the need for a programme of diversion.

"I am making the assumption they (the criminals) are young and unemployed in the main. I am not blaming the unemployment figures for that."

"I believe a number of the people would not take jobs if they were offered them. They are the sort who find there are easier pickings."

The battle to curb street crime could also be enhanced by more men on the beat. In the past two years London had been allowed to recruit an extra 600 officers and another 150 officers were being released for beat patrols by the recruitment of an extra 250 outside staff.

Nonetheless, the police will still face enormous manpower burdens. Mr Imbert has had before him a file of public order commitments in London for the "festive season".

Twenty-two football league matches played in London will require more than 2,000 officers. Another 1,000 will be on duty on New Year's Eve in Trafalgar Square.

Mortgage relief

By David Sapped

Threat to double tax claims

Thousands of young people in the South-east will be denied the opportunity of buying their own homes if the Government presses ahead with proposals to prevent unmarried couples being allowed double tax relief on mortgages, the Building Societies' Association said yesterday.

Regarded as "a further tax penalty on marriage" by the Treasury, the existing loophole allows two single people buying a home to get tax relief on separate mortgages totalling up to £60,000, although married couples are eligible for relief on only half that.

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is believed to be considering abolishing the "living in sin allowance" in the March Budget by making mortgage interest relief applicable to residences, rather than individuals.

However the Building Societies' Association gave this warning yesterday: "Such a move should be thought through very carefully because it could have a dramatic effect in south-east England, particularly on first time buyers."

"For some people, the so called double-tax relief is the only way that housing in the South-east becomes affordable."

"Without it, some first time buyers simply would not be able to buy their own home and it could also have consequential effects on arrears, especially if it was retrospective."

About 100,000 people - not all of them boy friend-girl friend partnerships but, often, friends of the same sex who each take advantage of the tax relief on mortgages up to £30,000 to buy jointly a house, or flat - exploit the loophole.

almost all of them in London and the South-east where even starter homes can cost more than £60,000.

The double relief costs the Government about £25 million a year, compared with the total mortgage interest relief bill of almost £5 billion.

Britain's biggest building society, the Halifax, said yesterday that the system allowing double, or in a few cases, even triple, mortgage relief should not be changed in isolation.

"Access to housing is difficult in the South-east because of the cost and this is often the only way people can manage it", it said.

"If the change were to come as part of a package which, in broad terms, would leave people more or less as well off, then it would be OK. To change it in isolation, though, could cause real problems."

Dads' Army jibe by school unions

By Our Education Reporter

Teaching unions reacted angrily yesterday to a report in *The Times* on Tuesday that the Government is proposing to encourage redundant executives and retired people including policemen to train as teachers. The planned new teaching force was dismissed as "Dads' Army".

The plan for mature entrants to begin teaching in primary schools while undertaking training through correspondence courses, night school and the Open University, was condemned by unions as likely to worsen standards in schools.

Unions accused Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, of trying to get teachers "on the cheap" instead of improving standards by "paying the market rate for the job".

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National

Union of Head Teachers, said that if the Government allowed people with lower academic qualifications to enter teaching, it may repeat the disastrous experience of the early 1960s when entry qualifications for teacher training were lowered to fill vacancies in schools quickly.

"Those teachers are now the very people who cause parents to complain about low standards in schools."

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, who dubbed the planned new teaching force "Dads' Army", said: "It is a sign of Mr Baker's pig-ignorance that he thinks you can recruit any Tom, Dick or Harry who can hold his own in a saloon bar and expect him to cope with a class of children in a doctored comprehensive."

Farmers criticize 'chocolate box' image of countryside

By Sam Kiley

The National Farmers' Union yesterday criticized planners for adopting a protective approach to the countryside after the decision to close a farmer's shop.

The farmer, Mr Brian Moore, of Wootton, North Yorkshire, built up an ice-cream business to absorb surplus milk production. He has been given six months to end his operation after complaints about traffic congestion and litter.

The farmers' union accused the

Department of the Environment and local councils of trying to preserve a "chocolate box" image of the countryside.

Mrs Eve Thompson, the union's marketing consultant specializing in diversification, said: "Mr Moore's case is not unique. It is the main problem we face all over the country."

"Planners and councillors think farmers should not be business-men - that they should stick to growing."

Latest battle on the beach at Hastings



Outdoor practice before the start of the 63rd Foreign and Colonial Hastings Chess Competition yesterday. Grandmasters (left to right) Nigel Short

(GB), Jonathan Speelman (GB) and Lev Psakhis (USSR) took the sea air before battle commenced in the Queens Hotel at the East Sussex resort.

Eight leading grandmasters play in the main tournament. Early results included: John Nunn and Murray Chandler (both GB), draw

after 26 moves; Nigel Davies (GB) and Jonathan Speelman, draw in 29 moves; Bent Larsen (Denmark) and Nigel Short, draw in 28 moves. The remain-

ing opening game, between Joel Benjamin (US) and Psakhis was still in progress yesterday. (Photograph: Peter Triemer)

Inter-City changes for 1988

Huge drive to improve train services

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

British Rail's long-distance Inter-City services will undergo their most wide-ranging changes for a decade during the next 12 months.

Many journey times will be improved, services introduced, new locomotives brought into use, and fresh techniques employed to reduce the disruption of maintenance work on the track.

The changes, announced today by Inter-City, are partly the result of new investment in recent years. But Inter-City's government subsidy ends next March, and the changes are part of a drive to move from a £100 million operating loss in 1986/87 to break-even in 1990.

Many journey times when new timetables are introduced in May, but Dr John Pridemore, director of Inter-City, says that already revenue is running at about £15 million a year ahead of budget. He believes the quality of service can be improved while reducing operating costs.

From January 11 British Rail fares generally will increase by an average of 6.5 per

cent. It is believed that Inter-City fares will increase by more than that, though none is expected to rise by more than about 9 per cent.

Many journey times are being reduced. Some time-savings will result from the introduction of new techniques and equipment for track maintenance, which will enable trains to run at full speed almost as soon as maintenance work is completed, instead of restricting speed for several days while the track beds down.

The journey from London

to Edinburgh on the East Coast route is to be reduced by about 15 to 20 minutes even before the expected completion of the electrification scheme in 1991.

Electrified services, running at present from London to Peterborough, will be extended to Leeds in the autumn.

But while many services are being speeded up, sleeper trains will be slowed down to allow the traveller a more peaceful night's sleep.

Among other changes being planned are:

● New electric locomotives on the West Coast route from London to Glasgow.

● By the end of 1988 about 80 per cent of Inter-City carriages to be brought up to the latest standards.

● Extra Pullman services to be introduced for business travellers to Bristol, South Wales, West Yorkshire, and Manchester.

● For the first time, new Pullman services are to be aimed specifically at leisure travellers. They will run from London after the morning peak to such places as Chester, Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, Bristol, and Bath.

● Twice as many trains to run between Manchester and Glasgow.

● Trains from Swindon to London to run every 15 minutes in the morning rush hour.

● A new direct service between the South-east and the Lake District and Scotland, linking Brighton to Glasgow and Edinburgh.

● New fast early-morning services from the North-east to reach London before 9 am.

93-minute wait for ambulance

By Robin Young

The management of London Ambulance Service yesterday admitted that a man died during the 93 minutes it took an ambulance to respond to a 999 call.

Mr William Hunt, an unemployed accountant, aged 61, died at his home in Hackney, east London, on November 29 after suffering a blocked artery. An ambulance officer who anonymously disclosed details of the case, blamed it on understaffing. He said that 999 calls were logged at 04.30, and 04.53, but the ambulance crew was not alerted until 05.55 and did not reach the scene until 06.03.

The service management said yesterday: "There were sufficient ambulances to respond to this call, but due to human error a delay occurred in attending. A disciplinary inquiry will be held."

Ambulance representatives at the National Union of Public Employees said that staff shortages were forcing ambulance officers to make life or death decisions.

Mr Hunt's widow, Mary, aged 51, said yesterday that she did not intend to take action about the delay. "If they had come earlier, it could have saved him. We thought about complaining, but he is dead now and there is nothing we can do."

Accidents down by 20%

By Michael McCarthy and Craig Seton

The number of road accidents over the Christmas holiday fell by about a fifth compared with last year, it was disclosed yesterday as the two men most concerned with the campaign against drink-driving expressed optimism about motorists' changing attitudes.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under-Secretary of State for Transport in charge of the campaign, and Mr Peter Joslin, chief constable of Warwickshire who as secretary of the traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers is collating the figures, were hopeful that the good response from motorists in the run up to Christmas would be maintained.

"Although the final figures have yet to be collected, there does appear to be a more than 20 per cent drop in accidents, and I believe the don't-drink-and-drive message is getting through", Mr Bottomley said.

Mr Joslin added: "I was encouraged by the pre-Christmas statistics and I hope that the trend has continued throughout the Christmas period."

National figures for accidents involving injury and positive breath tests for the period will not be available until the beginning of next week, but checks with a number of individual forces showed that the trend established from December 19-23 of road accidents involving injuries down nearly 25 per cent on the equivalent period in 1986 was continuing.

In Hampshire, where police had threatened to lock up drink-drivers, 16 motorists were arrested in Aldershot over Christmas. One man spent Boxing night in the cells after being found to have more than twice the legal limit of alcohol in his blood.

Dennis McCann, aged 35, had gone out for a drink after being ordered from his mother's home following a dispute. Yesterday McCann pleaded guilty at Aldershot Magistrates' Court to driving with excess alcohol and was banned for 18 months and fined £175.

In Surrey, the injury-accident rate over the same period has fallen by even more, with 59 accidents this Christmas compared with 106 in 1986, a drop of 44 per cent.

In Leicestershire, however, the number of road accidents in the county over the same period increased to 119, from 89 last year.

Mr Moore said: "This will put us out of business. We have a turnover of about £200,000 now. Without the ice-cream we would just about manage £80,000."

Drink-driving

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Floods hit Cumbria and Wales

Rivers burst their banks and many roads were blocked yesterday as heavy rain caused floods in parts of Wales and Cumbria.

Mid Glamorgan was the worst affected as swollen mountain rivers left nearly 10 villages awash with some houses completely cut off by water. Farmers moved stock to higher ground from riverside meadows as flood alerts were issued for the Usk, Tawe, Towy and Gwendraeth rivers after two days of rain.

In Cardiff, the river Taff burst its banks in low-lying areas and two people escaped from their car after ignoring police warnings and driving into 4ft of water. In Cumbria, parts of the A6 near Kendal and the A684 from Kendal to the M6 interchange were waterlogged.

The London Weather Centre said that the burst of heavy rain which affected the western side of Britain and Wales would not last. It should not further disrupt the mild, mainly dry spell, which has resulted from mobile westerly-south-westerly air streams, keeping a depression over the north of the country.

Indeed, the warm weather looks set to continue well into the new year with little sign of snow in Britain or in the rest of Europe. Temperatures are unusually high for late December, with parts of Yorkshire reaching 15C yesterday. Record highs for this time would be about 18C.

The weather centre said: "Even the colder days this week will be normal for the time of year, about 7C. There will be hardly any snow in Europe either, except in Scandinavia and on mountain tops. Skiers should look elsewhere."

Scotland is the only place in the British Isles that can expect snow, which may fall on Sunday during a short cold snap before the mild conditions return.

Harrogate District Council said it would allow wholesale trade and the conversion of farm buildings into an ice-cream plant, but Mr Moore's retail operation would have to stop.

Mr Moore said: "This will put us out of business. We have a turnover of about £200,000 now. Without the ice-cream we would just about manage £80,000."

Harrogate District Council was unavailable for comment.

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Councils aiming to transfer houses in advance of new Act

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

The end of council housing in England and Wales has been signalled by moves in a number of local authorities to rid themselves entirely of their stock.

Conservative-controlled Rochford council in Essex is on the point of deciding to transfer all its 2,100 homes to a non profit making housing association. In North Wales, Ynion (Anglican) District Council, where most councillors sit as Independents, is holding discussions about transferring its stock of 6,000 properties to a private company.

In London, Conservative-controlled Westminster council envisages the complete transfer of its 23,000 flats and houses to one or more housing associations and has already informally approached the Government for its approval.

The Housing Corporation, the quasi-autonomous government body which oversees housing associations, is looking favourably at the plans.

Councils envisage providing financial support for the new associations although they would be precluded from any direct role in running them. Under the Govern-

ment's Housing Bill local authority tenants will acquire a right to "pick a landlord". However, councils are anxious to make their own arrangements before the constraints of the Bill are applied.

Mr Teresa Gorman, MP for Billericay, Essex, said the move would help to solve the problem of the inner cities. "They should be sold to private builders with permission to build houses and not office blocks", she added.

In central London alone, there were more than 5,000 acres of derelict land. "The Audit Commission has estimated that there is £200 billion worth of land and derelict buildings held by public authorities."

"They could go under the hammer tomorrow. The Government has the power to order derelict land sales by councils and public bodies."

making it attractive to any tenants left in council accommodation when the Housing Bill becomes law.

Mr David Ellis, a Rochford housing official, said the council was responding directly to government plans. "I cannot see from the way the White Paper is framed that local authorities are going to go on providing housing", he said.

The council will have no direct control over any housing association it sponsors, though its financial support will be essential if the scheme is to succeed.

In Anglessey it is proposed that the council should form a limited company with a 49 per cent shareholding for tenants and 51 per cent held by housing managers and private investors. The company would agree to accept nominations from the council of people needing to be housed but would otherwise be independent.

The Government has indicated to Westminster council that it would be in order for it to create one or more new housing associations to take over its stock, and that ministers are looking forward to a number of schemes for such transfers.

Santa's specials steam away



The Christmas spirit puffed its way out of Marylebone yesterday as British Rail's "Santa" steam specials made their final runs between the London station and High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. The Clan Line, hired by British Rail from the Merchant Navy Preservation Society and sharing duties with the Alderman Draper locomotive, was crammed with almost 400 youngsters and their parents, plus Father Christmas and his grotto. It pulled 10 carriages out of Marylebone on the last day of British Rail's Yuletide steam season. Staff said the twice-daily trips were successful (Photograph: John Rogers).

Cab driver fined over chair leg 'protector'

A minicab driver, whose office had been surrounded by a gang of 40 men, was fined £250 yesterday for carrying a wooden chair leg.

Ronald Webb, aged 46, told police when he was arrested that he had the 3ft-long chair leg in his vehicle for protection.

Days before his arrest, Webb's office in Berley, south London, had been surrounded by the gang. They were chasing a man who was hiding in the office.

Mr Robert Roscoe, for Webb, told Bow Street Magistrates' Court in central London that there had been many problems with gangs in the area. Drivers had been warned by their minicab controller to protect themselves.

"A man being chased by a gang took refuge in their office in November, and it was surrounded by 30 to 40 youths", Mr Roscoe told the court.

"Webb carried the chair leg to make him feel safer in the light of what had happened."

Webb, of Taunton Road, Northfleet, Kent, was arrested while he waited to pick up a fare outside a club in Pall Mall, central London, at 1am on December 11.

He pleaded guilty to possessing an offensive weapon and was fined £250 and ordered to pay £25 prosecution costs.

Deer killed

Mr David Allan, of Sibley, near Loughborough, Leicestershire, yesterday escaped serious injury while driving through Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, when a deer leapt through his windscreen.

Rape claim

West Midlands police have suspended an employee after claims that he raped a typist aged 24, in a Birmingham police office after a Christmas party. The crown prosecution service will decide if the man is to be charged.

Sailors saved

Seven yachtsmen from France were rescued by lifeboat and taken to the Isle of Wight after losing a rudder and spending more than six hours adrift in a force eight gale in the Channel yesterday.

Cycling thief

A cycling grandmother aged 74 was robbed of £180 yesterday when a youth cycled past her in Chelmsford, Essex, and snatched a handbag containing the money from a basket on her handlebars.

Man quizzed

Detectives were yesterday questioning a man after Mrs Eileen Hilton, aged 24, was found dead with her throat cut at her home in Hyson Green, Nottingham.

£100,000 for thirsty raiders

A gang of burglars stole £100,000 from the main Oxford post office centre during the Christmas holidays.

The thieves helped themselves to coffee from a vending machine while the raid took place, and told a postman who rang the office that he should not report for work until after Christmas.

The burglary was carried out at the sorting centre in Becket Street on Sunday night. The gang forced an office side door open, then used drilling equipment to enter a second area.

When a postman telephoned, he was told he did not need to return to work until midnight on Monday.

The same gang may have stolen £250,000 from a post office sorting centre in Salisbury, Wiltshire.

During the Salisbury raid on November 29, industrial "concrete" drills stolen from a Yorkshire firm were used to drill through 14in reinforced walls into the sorting office strongroom.

When a generator used with the equipment failed, the team stole a replacement generator from a tool hire shop in Salisbury.

Workers express fears on pensions

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Most working people fear retirement, believing they will not be able to manage and that the present system of pensions will not meet their needs, according to a survey for the country's second largest union.

The survey looked into the attitudes to pensions of 2,000 people and found that only a minority expected to be able to manage on the money.

It found that women were more worried than men about making ends meet. The main finds of the survey, commissioned by the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union and carried out by MORL, are:

- 70 per cent of all women and 61 per cent of women working part-time do not think their pensions will meet their needs;
- 64 per cent of men do not think the present system of pensions will allow them to cope;
- 80 per cent of women want to continue to retire at 60 if

they receive the same pension as at 65;

- 86 per cent of those questioned thought that part-time workers should have the same right as full-time employees to join their employers' pension schemes;

- Only 13 per cent of the unemployed think the present system of pensions met their needs "fairly well".

The union points out that under the Sex Discrimination Act, which came into force last month, employers cannot set different retirement ages for men and women.

Mr John Edmonds, the union general secretary, said that the recent equalization of retirement age may be used by the Government to force women to work longer to gain adequate state pensions.

He said: "Our survey shows great dissatisfaction with the present system of pensions. The new law must not be used to give women a rougher deal by increasing the age at which they get their state pension."

Stolen chocolates clue to stepsisters' killer

By Craig Seton

Police believe that the killer of two elderly stepsisters may have given items he stole from their home as Christmas presents.

Two boxes of chocolates and a bottle of liquor were missing from the Birmingham home of Miss Alice Rowley, aged 87, and her stepsister, Edna, aged 77, whose bodies were found two days before Christmas.

The older woman had been strangled and the younger one smothered by the killer at the Greswold store corner shop they ran in Sparkhill.

The chocolates and liquor were Christmas presents for the sisters.

Yesterday Det Supt Mick Foster, who is leading the hunt

for the killer, said that the Contrast and Dairy Box chocolates and the Tia Maria liqueur could be vital clues.

He said: "Whoever took them may have given them to someone such as a girl friend or a wife. If someone has received a gift like that they might not have been expecting. I would ask them to come forward in confidence."

A Toshiba cassette player the sisters owned was also stolen. Police believe the sisters may have known their killer and last night, a week after their bodies were found, detectives turned the area asking neighbours for help.

Police also want to trace a house water board official who called at the shop eight days before the killings.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Israel rejects US deportation plea

Jerusalem — Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday indicated that Israel would not heed an American demand that it refrain from expelling the Palestinian activists whom it considers responsible for the recent wave of violence in the occupied areas (A Correspondent writes). "Israel knows how to defend its well-being and its security. We appreciate the advice, but we will act according to our own understanding," Mr Shamir said.

Deportation, the summary justice dealt out to the people deemed and the heavy casualties inflicted by the Army have dominated debate since the violence.

The Americans, as well as some Israeli leaders, are concerned that the move will increase tension. Israel's Inner Cabinet is expected to meet today or tomorrow to discuss the issue.

Angolan Murder raid claim amnesty

Johannesburg — The official news agency of Angola, Angop, claimed yesterday that South African aircraft had made at least 10 bombing raids into southern Angola between December 20 and 27, killing 15 civilians and wounding five others (Michael Hornsby writes).

It also claimed that the Angolan Army shot down two South African aircraft while they were bombing villages and army positions on December 26. A military spokesman in Pretoria "categorically denied" that an Air Force aircraft had been shot down.

Shopper rescued Excess baggage

Washington — The wife of a former *Le Monde* correspondent in London was recovering in hospital yesterday after being lost in a Washington shop for a week despite a large search (Michael Binyon writes).

Mme Brigitte Pierre, aged 71, was found, dazed and disoriented, sitting in a little-used stairwell seven days after telephoning her husband from the store, where she had had a hair appointment. She survived without food or water, and was said to be in remarkably good condition. She is being treated for dehydration.

Demjanjuk puts case

Mr John Demjanjuk (left) speaking yesterday at his trial in Jerusalem. After five months, Mr Demjanjuk's defence case came to a provisional close yesterday after his testimony (A Correspondent writes). Mr Demjanjuk denies Israeli charges that he is "Ivan the Terrible", a brutal gas chamber guard at Treblinka Death Camp, where more than 850,000 Jews were killed from 1942 to 1943. He says that he is a victim of mistaken identity, yet his alibi for that time period is shaky. Summations are due to begin on January 25.

Ortega firm about talking to Contras

From David Gollob, Managua

President Ortega accused the Reagan Administration of attempting to provoke his Government into breaking off ceasefire negotiations with the Contras, by encouraging the rebels to step up fighting in the six-year war.

"That's what they want. It's a clear provocation," Señor Ortega said. "But we are determined to continue the negotiating process despite these criminal attacks."

Señor Ortega spoke to journalists yesterday after meeting with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the Archbishop of Managua, in an effort to revive ceasefire negotiations with the Contras.

Cardinal Obando was the mediator in two rounds of negotiation in the Dominican Republic earlier this month which failed to produce a ceasefire within the framework of the peace plan signed by five Central American Presidents in Guatemala last August. The Government has proposed a third round to be held in Panama or Belize on January 7-10.

Such a meeting is likely to

be the last chance to arrange a ceasefire before the five Central American Presidents meet again in San José, Costa Rica, on January 15 to evaluate compliance with the Guatemala accords.

The peace plan requires governments in the three nations in conflict to give amnesty to former insurgents and allow them to compete for power in free elections. Military aid to rebel forces from foreign powers, such as Cuba and the United States, would cease, while the five Central American countries would end all support for rebels fighting in neighbouring states.

The Contras have stepped up military pressure in recent weeks. On December 20 they launched their biggest military offensive this year, overrunning three mining towns in north-east Nicaragua.

The simultaneous attacks caught Sandinista forces off guard and, although the rebels apparently failed to hold the towns for any significant length of time, both sides suffered heavy casualties.

Abu Nidal group ready to free child captives

Two young French girls, right, seized from a yacht by a Palestinian guerrilla group led by Abu Nidal, may soon be freed (Reuters reports). Virginie Valente, left, aged six, and her sister Marie-Laure, aged five, were kidnapped with their mother and five other people in the Mediterranean last month.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council said yesterday it had been ordered by its leaders to work on moving the girls to France "in the nearest possible time" to hand them over to their father. "Our movement is working with concerned parties to move the two girls to one of the Arab capitals," said a statement delivered to an international news agency in Beirut.

The typewritten statement was accompanied by this photograph, in colour, of the two girls, who appeared to be in good health, sitting in front of a Palestinian flag. The statement was signed by Walid Khaleel, who first announced their capture on November 8 in a seaborne operation off the Israel-occupied Gaza Strip. He claimed those captured were Israelis, but Israel said it had no record of them and they were later identified as from France and Belgium.



Ordeal of Iranian refugees

Exiles threaten to commit suicide if forced home

By Our Foreign Staff

A group of Iranians who had threatened to commit suicide rather than return home waited fearfully at Dubai airport last night as the authorities prepared to send them back to Iran.

The group — four men, three women and a child aged four — arrived in Dubai from Belgrade, where they had been hauled kicking and screaming onto a Yugoslav Airlines flight.

As they were dragged from Belgrade transit terminal, where they had spent their days, they screamed "we don't want to go back" and "we will kill ourselves".

A spokesman for the group said they had unsuccessfully sought asylum in Japan, India

and Pakistan. The adults reportedly fled from Iran five years ago so that the men would escape conscription for the Iran-Iraq war.

Last night a Dubai immigration official said the authorities were working out details with Iran Air to return them to Iran.

"Dubai is not responsible for these people if they do not have valid visas for the United Arab Emirates (UAE)," the official said.

The group's spokesman gave a confused chronology of their travels, saying they had spent some time in Japan. He said at one stage they had gone to Pakistan, then Dubai and on to Belgrade.

He was reluctant to give further details. "We don't want to go to the West so we

can live easily and be rich. We just want to be free," he said.

Two of the Iranians, a man and a woman, were reported to have tried to slash their wrists in Belgrade, but were subdued by police.

The group arrived in Yugoslavia from Dubai on Saturday morning, seeking asylum in Canada. But a Canadian Embassy spokesman said consular officials had found their Canadian visas to be false and had stamped them as invalid on Monday.

Mr Svetin Frlita, the Belgrade representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said the group did not have refugee status and did not qualify for UN protection.

The case highlights Yugoslavia's importance as a transit stop for people fleeing to the West from East bloc and Third World states.

Meanwhile, in London a spokesman for an Iranian opposition organization, the People's Mujahedin, said that two of 12 Iranians who have been on hunger strike in Gabon since they were expelled from France three weeks ago have been taken to hospital.

The spokesman said: "The President (of Gabon) went to meet them and because of his request they agreed to take liquids."

France expelled a total of 17 Iranian dissidents and exiles to Gabon, in a move which was seen as connected to the release of two French hostages held in Lebanon.

Conmen prey on Tehran exodus

By Hahzir Teimourian

A combination of a population boom, an ideological revolution, a war without end and a Government that is responsible for three-quarters of all executions in the world has made Iran the nightmare of Western governments trying to keep the numbers of Third World immigrants down.

Since the downfall of the Shah, Iran has outstripped all other countries as the source of asylum-seekers in the West. According to Home Office figures, 10,411 Iranians had asked for refugee status in Britain between 1980 and 1986. Their numbers equalled the combined figures for the next six countries on the list.

The figures are much larger for countries such as the United States, France, Canada, West Germany and Sweden

which have less stringent immigration policies.

Over 700,000 Iranians have settled officially in the United States and a quarter of a million live in France. According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, some 600,000 Iranians were waiting in Turkey last summer for permission to settle in a Western country.

The activities of cunning racketeers help swell the ranks of Iranian refugees knocking on the door of Britain. Conmen or corrupt diplomats inside some corrupt European missions are still selling near-perfect British visas for £1,200 a time in Iran, despite the absence of any British diplomats in Tehran. There is also a host of middlemen who have grown fat from the rackets.

As a result of their activities, Iranian men with several wives and two dozen children have been able to fool international airlines with their forged visas and reach London airport, where pleading political refugee status ensured their installation in expensive hotels at the expense of the British Government.

Other groups have bought guidance on how, for example, to buy a ticket for Argentina and jump the aircraft during a refuelling stop at Shannon airport in Ireland. Once accepted as a political refugee there, it is only a short road journey to Belfast and a shuttle flight to London.

In Turkey and Pakistan, "lawyers" persuade would-be refugees to hand over their passports and money in return

for the promise of a United States "Green Card" residence permit, which of course is unlikely to materialize.

As a result, even tougher measures are being taken by Western governments to keep them out. West Germany has agreed to compensate East Germany for the loss of a lucrative business by its national airline that ferried large numbers of Iranians to Berlin, and Britain now fines foreign carriers which bring refugees to its shores without entry visas.

Yet the pressure of refugees is expected to continue, even if the Gulf War were to end soon. Iran, which had a population of about 10 million during the Second World War, is now a nation of 51 million and is doubling itself every 19 years.

New UN moves likely on Iran arms

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain is expected to initiate a fresh attempt to draft a United Nations Security Council arms embargo resolution against Iran next week.

Sir Crispin Tickell, the British Permanent Representative to the United Nations, becomes on Friday president of the council for one month.

Whitehall sources predicted that he would contact his counterparts from the four other permanent members of the council — the US, the Soviet Union, France and China — and invite them to begin joint work on drafting a resolution.

The sources took encouragement from a statement

issued on Christmas Eve under the Soviet presidency, which reaffirmed the council's commitment to take steps to enforce Resolution 598's call for an Iran-Iraq war ceasefire.

Although vaguely worded, there is cautious optimism that, by accepting it, Moscow has at last committed itself to go ahead with an embargo resolution. Washington and Whitehall have been pressing Moscow for months, but it has always argued that the Iranians should be given more time to accept Resolution 598.

Hopeful signs emerged yesterday that another problem anticipated by the West may either have evaporated or perhaps never existed.

Washington and Whitehall feared that Moscow would make its acceptance of an embargo conditional on the West agreeing to all foreign navies in the Gulf being replaced by a joint UN force.

Yesterday the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Gennady Gerasimov, made it clear that Moscow was not linking the two issues but wanted them to be discussed "in parallel" at the UN.

Shuttle continues: Mr Farouk al-Shara, the Syrian Foreign Minister, continued to shuttle between Iran and Arab leaders yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes).

According to Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, Mr al-

Shara arrived in Tehran and presented a message from President Assad of Syria. Iran's chief Arab ally in the Iran-Iraq war, to President Khamenei of Iran.

The trip came as Syrian and Iraqi sources said the two countries are to reopen a long-closed border post and that work had already started on security, customs and immigration facilities at Tanf post, where the borders of Syria, Iraq and Jordan intersect.

In Riyadh, Gulf Arab states who had held a four-day summit of the Gulf Co-operation Council yesterday called on the Security Council to back its ceasefire order.

Moscow accuses Howe of inciting Afghan violence

From A Correspondent, Moscow

A senior Soviet spokesman yesterday attacked statements on Afghanistan by Sir Geoffrey Howe and accused the Foreign Secretary of inciting violence in the war-torn nation.

Mr Gennady Gerasimov, spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said: "We have the impression that Mr Howe does not want to be informed and take into account all the proposals by the Afghan leadership for a political settlement in the country. This cannot be called anything other than inciting to further violence."

At a briefing on the military situation around the garrison town of Khost, near the Pakistan border, Mr Gerasimov also noted that supplies of British Blowpipe missiles continued to reach "Afghan bandits".

He claimed that the road north from Khost to Gardez had been cleared in an operation carried out by the Afghan Army with Soviet support, and said it would reopen on Thursday.

Mr Gerasimov noted the denial by Washington of an Afghan claim that a US military adviser had been killed during the offensive to open the road. But he added: "An American was killed. We now have to find out why he was

there. It's a strange place for an American to be."

The road from Khost was "totally free" and on Friday supplies which had been kept in Gardez for the 30,000 starving people in Khost could be moved out, he said.

Troops were clearing mines from beside the road and building bypasses around destroyed bridges. According to Mr Gerasimov, more than 1,200 landmines had been removed daily.

It was the second time in a week that Mr Gerasimov had broken with previous practice and discussed a military operation while it was under way in Afghanistan, where the Soviet Union maintains an estimated 115,000 troops.

DELHI: Western diplomats here are still not convinced that the road to Khost has been cleared and the siege has been lifted (Michael Hamlyn writes).

According to the latest reports received from Kabul, the guerrillas were still dug in overlooking the road and around the town. After an early breakthrough by Russian troops trying to lift the siege, the diplomats said the guerrillas had again closed the road.

The Soviet troops, estimated by diplomats at about 30,000, had become bogged down after the first key pass on the road.

Briton caught up in Khost battle

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

A British medical volunteer who came under fire in the early stages of the battle for Khost has given *The Times* a dramatic account of his escape from Afghanistan.

Mr Nicholas Mellor, aged 27, formerly a research biochemist at Oxford University, went to Afghanistan to study the feasibility of carrying out a vaccination programme on behalf of a French charity.

While leaving the country on horseback with other charity workers, he was caught in the battle between Mujahidin guerrillas and an armoured Soviet and Afghan government column trying to relieve

by timber smugglers which involved crossing a high pass known as Pareley, and had stopped to sleep when shells began exploding along a ridge two miles away. Four hours later groups of Mujahidin began firing through the valley. The first Soviet ranging shot signalled that an artillery bombardment was about to begin.

"We saw a line of shell bursts coming down the valley towards us and had to abandon our horses and all our baggage and take refuge in a ravine. From there we saw bursts 40 yards from where we had been sleeping," he said.

During a lull in the fighting they ran back, saddled up their horses and escaped to reach the frontier, which they crossed disguised as local tribesmen to avoid Pakistani patrols.

Mr Mellor, now safely back in Britain, left after three months with both medical and political conclusions. He believes that Afghanistan faces years of conflict whether the Russians withdraw or not, and that it is vital to take relief to the desperately poor and depressed peasants.

He estimated that four in five children died before the age of five in areas where he worked, and many adult deaths were caused by poor hygiene and lack of even rudimentary care. In spite of immense problems he will be reporting to Médecins du Monde, a French charity, that a vaccination programme would be feasible.

His political conclusions stem from the observation that Islamic fundamentalism has taken a much greater hold in Afghanistan than is usually reported in the West.

He said there was surprise among Western workers that the US was giving most of its aid to the radical wing of the Hesh-i-Islami Party, a fundamentalist group. The Americans appeared not to realize that while Hesh-i-Islami was a Sunni Muslim group, it shared many of the perspectives of the Shia regime in Tehran.



Mr Mellor, after his escape from Soviet firepower.

the besieged garrison town near the border with Pakistan.

Their ordeal came halfway through a 10-day journey to the border from central Afghanistan, where some of the party had been carrying out vaccinations while Mr Mellor made his studies.

They rode by moonlight, hiding in mosques by day to avoid Soviet patrols. But as they approached the fighting their guides warned that the journey would take a week longer, at a time when snow was expected, if they made a detour to avoid it.

From 40 miles away they could see huge flares exploding incessantly over the battle-ground valleys between Gardez and Khost.

They followed a route used

Conquering the human barriers in space

Romanenko's feat gives Russia seven-year lead

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Yuri Romanenko's record-breaking flight is more than a feat of endurance for the Guinness book of records. It shows the determination of the Russians to find out how cosmonauts would cope with a 30-month mission to Mars planned early in the next century.

Commander Romanenko and his two colleagues have returned with a mass of data from their space experiments, including films and sound-tapes as well as about 270 photographs of sections of the sky. But they also made the Mir achieve its billing as the most versatile spacecraft in history.

They brought into operation all its six docking ports, four more than any other space station, allowing the

Mir to handle simultaneously four scientific "modules", a supply ship and the Soyuz craft that ferries astronauts to and from the Earth.

An announcement yesterday that the new crew will spend a year in the Mir space station can only emphasize the Russian success and add to dismay in the United States over the widening gap between the Soviet and American space programmes.

It will be at least seven years before the Americans will get a working space station in orbit, and that depends on a successful resumption in the coming year of a modified version of the Shuttle launch vehicle.

Yet it was 14 years ago that the Americans demonstrated the first space station, with their Skylab workshop. In its longest mission it

was the home for 84 days of a crew of three astronauts.

Over the next 12 months the latest Russian crew to board the Mir space station will test patterns of exercise and vitamin supplements in the diet to reduce the deterioration of muscles, to improve the circulation of the blood, lessen the risk of heart disease and prevent bones from becoming brittle.

Long periods of weightlessness in space have deleterious effects of on bones and blood vessels. There are also alterations in the balance of hormones in the body.

Although Commander Romanenko has shown man can work effectively for as long as 11 months in space, some experts believe adopting to weightlessness will become the limiting factor to long missions.

Dr Oleg Gazenko, head of the Health Ministry's Institute of Medical and Biological Problems, has suggested flights longer than two years in conditions of weightlessness might prove undesirable.

He is confident that men could adapt to space. He sees the hazard in the effects of returning to Earth.

The problem of calcium loss from the bones in a weightless environment is well known. If calcium loss is too severe, it is not known whether the body could replace the mineral when the space adventurer returns to Earth. The valves of the heart that keep the blood flowing properly through the body also degenerate in weightlessness, but so far they have recovered their function after return to Earth.

Soviet cosmonauts exercise two

hours daily on a stationary bicycle and a treadmill. Measurements of the circumferences of returning cosmonauts' calves have shown a decrease of up to 15 per cent. Yet the Russians report that their men remain about the same weight.

There is also a strong psychological impact of months of relative isolation, coupled with constant scrutiny from the ground.

Earlier this month, Commander Romanenko let irritation get the better of him. Asked yet again by an earthbound journalist about his well-being, the man who has been longest in space snapped: "Leave me alone. I have a lot of work to do."

A Soviet space official said it testified eloquently to the stress that worldwide curiosity and months of isolation in space can create.

National interests tie hands of new EEC fraud squad

From Richard Owen, Brussels

A new EEC anti-fraud unit, which starts work next week, is effectively disabled before it has even started work by the attitudes of individual governments to fraud investigations.

Official sources disclosed this week that none of the 10 members of the new unit will be able to conduct on-the-spot investigations in the countries concerned. They will instead be confined to monitoring the progress of local investigating agencies.

The same sources also complained that inadequate resources are being devoted to crime, which is estimated to siphon off £2 billion a year.

According to the EEC's Court of Auditors, which has just issued its annual report, there have been six previous anti-fraud schemes since 1979 and all of them have failed. The court criticizes the unwillingness of member governments to report fraud to Brussels.

Many fraud cases involve misuse of agricultural subsidies, with producers inflating output figures to claim excessive subsidies under the common agricultural policy or the structural funds for regional and social aid. But industrial goods are also involved, with exporters claiming EEC export subsidies but then re-importing the goods under false documents, a system known in the European Commission, which seeks to monitor such practices, as "the carousel".

The Commission declines to put an overall figure on fraud losses, but unofficial estimates put it as high as 10 per cent of the EEC budget of £25 billion. The Commission announced three months ago that it was appointing 10 new members of the existing anti-fraud team to crack down on abuses.

The European Parliament had asked for an EEC "flying squad". Instead, the 10 new inspectors will remain in the Commission in Brussels, co-ordinating the anti-fraud fight

by liaising between the Directorates of Agriculture, the Budget and Financial Control, all of which try to keep an eye on abuses.

"Again and again we come up against resistance from national customs and fiscal authorities", one official said. "They do not want supra-national investigations because they fear they will detract from national functions. It is seen as an issue of national sovereignty."

Under the existing anti-fraud system, the Commission has to rely on governments to report suspected abuses to Brussels. EEC officials say only a fraction of the real total is reported.

The Court of Auditors sharply criticized the anti-

Brussels (Reuters) - The EEC opened talks with Morocco yesterday on a new agreement on fishing rights, a spokesman for the European Commission announced. He said the negotiations, which diplomats said could be crucial for the trade relationship between Morocco and the Community, could last until tomorrow.

The two sides have been negotiating since July, after a four-year pact between Spain and Morocco expired and was extended until December 31. Diplomats said the two sides were apparently far from agreement and the current Mafia involvement.

fraud effort, noting that only 311 cases of fraud or "irregularity" had been reported in 1986, with a total value of £20 million. This was an improvement on 1985, when only 230 cases were reported with a value of £8 million. But anti-fraud experts say that even the 1986 figure is probably only one-tenth of the real annual losses.

The Court said it was inconceivable that Greece, which reported no cases of fraud at last year, was in fact free of "irregularities". But it blamed all 12 govern-

ments for providing inadequate information "in an unsystematic way". Member states provided information which was insufficiently specific, and they underestimated the fraudulent use of customs duties and VAT payments, the report said.

EEC officials said national governments tended to regard proposals for EEC inspections as "intrusive", and national customs officials were often either ignorant of EEC law or reluctant to apply it. EEC officials are themselves reluctant, however, when asked about specific cases, arguing that this is a "sensitive" matter between Brussels and member states, with national authorities anxious in case they are singled out.

It is known, however, that a high proportion of fraud cases originate in the southern EEC states, not least in Italy, where the Mafia is said to be heavily involved in wine fraud.

Mr Piet Dankert, a Dutch Socialist Euro-MP, estimates that in 1984 - the last year when full studies were conducted by the European Parliament - 16 hectares of adulterated wine were produced in Italy (largely in Sicily) to qualify fraudulently for EEC subsidies, at a loss to the EEC budget of some £200 million. Mr Dankert said it has proved very difficult to bring legal action or prove Mafia involvement.

The European Parliament is pressing for stiff penalties for false labelling of wine or the use of additives, and wants wine and wine products to be subjected to new electronic testing - provided the tests are conducted by the EEC Inspectorate rather than by national governments.

This week Commission officials reportedly dismissed the idea of a "flying squad" with such powers as utopian, but said the new anti-fraud unit would set up a computerized system to co-ordinate and improve the existing anti-fraud effort.

Strauss pleads in Russia for Red Square pilot



Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Prime Minister, meeting Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, at the Kremlin yesterday shortly before they started discussions which lasted two and a half hours. Herr Strauss appealed to Mr Gorbachev to shorten the four-year labour camp

term of Mathias Rust, the 19-year-old West German pilot who flew a Cessna plane from Frankfurt to Red Square in May (Rust reports from Moscow). A West German Embassy spokesman said that Herr Strauss had also mentioned Rust in a meeting on Monday evening with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign

Minister, but received no concrete response, West German sources said. His discussions yesterday with Mr Gorbachev included the treaty scrapping intermediate-range nuclear missiles, signed by Mr Gorbachev and President Reagan in Washington earlier this month. A West German

Embassy spokesman said that Herr Strauss, who had opposed the treaty to eliminate the rockets from Europe, had told Mr Gorbachev that it was "militarily and technically not a help for us (West Germany)". But, he said that "it is an introduction to a new level, in which further steps could follow, then it would be useful."

Ferry families challenge Coast Guard

From Our Correspondent, Manila

Relatives of the victims of the Philippines ferry disaster questioned the competence of the Marine Board of Inquiry at yesterday's hearings, insisting that the board must not include Coast Guard officials "because the Coast Guard, too, is on trial in this case."

The collision between the tanker Vector and the ferry Dona Paz has become the worst peacetime shipping disaster, with more than 2,000 people believed dead.

Challenging the inclusion of Coast Guard officials in the five-member board, Mr Palito Rojas, the lawyer for the victims' relatives, said at the hearing: "We will establish that the ship was overloaded."

He went on to point out that clearance to sail would have

been given by the local Coast Guard officials and that therefore the Coast Guard was also on trial.

However, Mr Rojas's request that the inquiry be deferred was turned down, adding to the confusion surrounding the investigation after two days of hearings.

The Board of Inquiry,

which adjourned the hearings until Monday, is hoping that some of the 26 survivors, including two crewmen from the tanker, will be available to give evidence.

But the board's legal officer, Mr Rudy Villanueva, said he was afraid that lack of "reliable, first-hand knowledge" would prevent the board from

ascertaining how the collision happened. "We are losing hope," he said. **Death toll:** The Philippines Coast Guard said yesterday that only 108 bodies had been recovered so far and that larger numbers released earlier were wrong because of multiple reporting of bodies recovered in remote areas (AP reports).

"According to my belief, if the Dona Paz was the one which rammed the Vector, Dona Paz would be able to survive and not sink because she was built with a collision bulkhead," Mr Bawagan said.

Mr José Sison, lawyer for the Vector Shipping Corporation, retorted: "If the tanker was the one that rammed the Dona Paz, there would have been no explosion."

Singapore press crisis

Editor and Prime Minister locked in combat

From M.G.G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Singapore, and Mr Derek Davies, editor of the influential *Far Eastern Economic Review*, are locked in a confrontation that could end with either or both of them badly bruised.

Mr Lee has threatened to sue Mr Davies for libel if he does not retract, apologize and pay damages for allegations that the Prime Minister says reflect badly on him. Mr Lee gave him until this afternoon to make his retraction.

The Hong-Kong based *Review* reacted to the reduction of its circulation from 10,000 to 500 in Singapore by withdrawing its distribution there altogether.

Singapore has been critical of reporting by the *Review* for some years, with almost every



Mr Lee Kuan Yew: Threat to bring libel action.

issue of the magazine carrying official reaction challenging its coverage of Singapore. The current row arose from an article in the December 17 issue which gave a different picture of the detention of alleged Marxists than that given by the Government.

Mr Lee told the BBC World Service that he had had to stand firm when portrayed as a person intolerant of the Roman Catholic Church and persecuting its clergy, and that Mr Davies had refused to withdraw the allegations.

This is Mr Lee's second libel action against the publication this year. He is already suing the recently banned Malaysian newspaper *The Star*, and the case is now before the Malaysian High Court here. The *Review* is the fourth publication to have its circulation reduced. The others are *Time*, *Asia Week* and *The Asian Wall Street Journal*. Restrictions on *Time* have since been lifted.

Singapore has a love-hate relationship with the foreign press, especially those from the region that circulate freely in the republic. It argues that

its multi-racial society is too fragile to have a free-wheeling press, and keeps its newspapers and publications on a tight leash, as does almost every country in the region.

It alleges that "activists" have been published in recent issues of periodicals, like the *Review*, causing internal problems.

As a rule of thumb, any article with which Singapore disagrees and which does not carry its views is deemed to be an interference in its internal affairs. It has extended this to outsiders expressing an opinion on its affairs.

Four prominent Malaysians, including the chairman of the Bar Council, were recently banned from Singapore for the views they expressed over the detention of 22 men and women who were allegedly involved in a Marx-

ist plot to overthrow the Government.

Singapore's tough stand is based on a shrewd calculation that publishers are more interested in a magazine's profitability than in its contents.

It provides incentives for regional publications that print in Singapore. Three of the four publications which had their circulation restricted already print in Singapore.

Mr Lee and Mr Davies have remained on cordial terms for many years, and Mr Davies has met the Prime Minister more often than other regional editors. Now the gloves are off.

Meanwhile, the Singapore Government has yet to act on the application for a work permit by a new *Review* correspondent, Hamish McDonald.

Naxalites gain leftists' release

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The government of the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh has yielded quickly to the demands of a Naxalite rebel group and released eight of its militant supporters who were captured on December 15.

Its hand was forced by the kidnapping on Monday of eight senior Indian civil servants.

The eight left-wing militants were freed from Rajamundry central jail at the demand of the People's War Group, one of the most determined and violent of the Naxalite factions, dedicated to the "annihilation of class enemies".

Two women among the civil servants were the first to

prisoners released had all been given bail.

The left-wing rebels are known by the generic name of Naxalites after the village of Naxalbari in West Bengal where the movement began 20 years ago.

The People's War Group, which is said to have behind 43 violent outbreaks in the East Godavari district alone, is led by Mr Kondapalli Seetharamaiah, aged 66, who escaped from prison after killing a policeman.

The eight freed from jail yesterday were important couriers and arms dealers, according to the state police.

They were arrested by a special anti-Naxalite squad, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition - including 47 guns, 1,200 live cartridges, explosives, olive-green uniforms and radical literature - was seized at the same time. Some of the captured arms had British markings.

State police are reported to be furious at the release of the prisoners. A senior policeman told United News of India that the hostage episode "was bound to have a demoralizing effect on the police force".

The release was a great blow, he said, especially at a time when efforts to stem the Naxalite movement had reached a decisive stage.

The five senior officials still held by the Naxalites include Mr S.R. Shankaran, a principal secretary of the state government; Mr V.P.C. Sastri, the collector, or chief official, of the East Godavari district; and Mr Vijay Kumar, son of the Governor of Bihar.

Colombo - Police in Batticaloa, eastern Sri Lanka, have been restricted to barracks after a gunfight with Tamil guerrillas in which 30 civilians died. Meanwhile, Indian soldiers of the peacekeeping force are patrolling the town.

be released by the kidnappers, and they have been leading the negotiations with the rebels. Last night a third senior official was freed by the group.

The state government also announced yesterday that a further 18 junior civil servants were being held hostage in a tribal welfare hostel in the dense forests of the coastal East Godavari district.

According to the state's Chief Minister, the former film star Mr N.T. Rama Rao: "Our concern is to get their release and we are going about it cautiously. Our approach is to see no harm is done."

He said that the eight

US demands strict standards in the classroom

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Mr William Bennett, America's forceful Education Secretary, yesterday proposed a radical overhaul of the country's much-criticized school curriculum, cutting out hundreds of bizarre optional courses and replacing them with a compulsory core of 36 courses, from algebra and art history to science and Western civilization.

He presented a report on a fictional school, called James Madison High School, which he proposed as a model that would bring back excellence in education and halt the alarming decline in standards. It is the culmination of his rigorous campaign, similar to Mr Kenneth Baker's, to introduce a

more rigorous core curriculum in schools.

Under the Bennett plan, all secondary school pupils would be required to take four years of English and three years each of science, mathematics and social sciences. They would also have to complete two years of foreign languages and physical education and a year of fine arts to qualify for graduation - the US equivalent of a leaving certificate.

"Even by the standards of most other industrialized nations, American education is more comprehensive, more prolonged and more democratic," Mr Bennett said. "But, too often, it is also less rigorous and less productive."

Mr Bennett wants to cut out dozens of optional courses, many of them introduced in the 1960s, which many people have denounced as fads with little intellectual rigour. But he would still retain at least a quarter of the available classroom time for options.

His proposal is not a statement of government policy, nor can it be enforced because individual states set the mandatory curriculum for their schools. But Mr Bennett has effectively used his office as a "healy palm" to persuade schools around the country to adopt some of his ideas.

He told a press conference yesterday that it was vital to aim high. Pupils responded to

high expectations. But his proposed curriculum was "for the students we have, not for an imaginary class of teenage wizards. And it is also, I believe, the kind of basic programme most Americans want for their schools."

He said his imaginary school gave flesh to minimum graduation requirements called for in a 1983 report by the National Association of Excellence in Education, titled "A Nation at Risk."

The report expressed alarm that the school curriculum had become "so homogenized, diluted and diffused" that it no longer served a clear purpose. "In effect, we have a cafeteria style curriculum in which the

appetizers and desserts can easily be mistaken for the main courses."

Mr Bennett said that all 50 states had improved their programmes since that report, "but it is too soon to declare victory; much ground remains to be covered."

Mr Bennett's proposals are likely to be widely welcomed. Mr Scott Thomson, director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, said they made a lot of good sense. The better schools were already doing this, though too often other pupils filled their schedules with "junk food" electives. However, he criticized the omission of business and vocational courses.

Experts paint a grim picture of life in the next century

From Charles Bremner, New York

You are sitting in your disposable house glancing out at a treeless landscape and you are thinking about applying to join a festival of death. True to form, your computer, an emotional machine with a sense of humour, reads your mind and boosts your mood with a blast of psycho-perfume.

This is not Orwell or Huxley, but a vision for the next century from the World Future Society, a Washington-based institution whose experts make serious forecasts for the use of business, governments and anyone who wants to subscribe to their journals.

While the rest of the media are indulging in predictions for 1988, the World Future Society has taken a bigger leap with an outlook compiled from the separate views of dozens of experts. The result is a sketch of America in the next

century and sometimes far beyond. For the most part, the foreseeable future will not be greatly different from today, but it may not be a world worth sticking around for.

Naturally, the computer is king - "ultra-intelligent" machines will eventually simulate emotions and

● For the most part, it may not be a world worth sticking around for ●

be equipped to read the mind - and medical advances have created miracle cures and wonders, such as childbirth for 90-year-old women with transplanted uteri.

But 21st-century America will also be dominated by an ageing population with fewer marriages and children than any earlier era. For a start, by 2000 there will be 100,000 Americans more than 100 years old, many in perfectly good health.

The experts differ on whether the world population will be exploding or steady.

In an America gone litigation-mad, prospective lovers will sign dating contracts that deal with sexually transmissible diseases, property and compensation if the relationship ends.

"Without children or grandchildren, older single people may take little interest in the long-term future," the editors of *The Futurist*, the society's journal, assert. They also note that the population will decline, particularly in Europe.

In this world, expensive life-saving technologies will be rationed, old people may have the option of meaningful suicide in death festivals, and hotels and resorts will be increasingly geared to the elderly and infirm. This is perhaps not so far-fetched, given that education funding is already running into difficulty in the

United States because of the number of childless tax-payers.

The quality of life may be fairly grim. Houses will be disposable and there will be few trees because of the 20th century's inability to curb acid rain. There will be an electricity shortage in the early years of the

● Treeless landscapes and skyscrapers reaching 1,000 storeys ●

century, and free trade with the newly-industrialized Third World will have robbed the West of its comfortable living standards.

But on a more positive note, super-computers will be able to forecast the weather with precision three months in advance and they will also be able to predict accidents.

Computers will help police understand the link between wea-

ther and criminal behaviour. Drunken driving will no longer be around because the "sober-up pill" will be freely available. Cars will be virtually accident-free and sky-scrapers will reach 1,000 storeys.

And in the further future, the Sun will be mined to provide unlimited energy and the Earth will send a manned mission to Andromeda, the galaxy most like our own. A spaceship the size of a planet will be needed for the one-way trip, a journey that will take at least five million years.

Peering into the nearer future, New York's best-known professional futurologist, Miss Faith Popcorn of Brainreserve Inc, has firmed up her forecast that in the closing years of the century, the US will return to an age of "niceness". "It's an era of returning to naïveté, monogamy, babies, straight thinking and straight shooting."

Miss Popcorn, who has made an industry out of trend analysis for

Madison Avenue, bases her case on the surfeit of cynicism that has afflicted the country in the affluent 1980s. "We'll want the truth, no matter how it hurts," she says.

The trend, already in full swing in Manhattan, towards eating more old-fashioned meat and potatoes-type food, will bring the plump woman back into fashion. "We'll run a bit for our hearts - for longevity - but we'll still eat what we want."

Less serious, the following are among predictions for 1988 as revealed by celebrated psychics to *The National Enquirer*, the mass-circulation weekly.

The Gorbachovs will get divorced, terrorists will hijack a New York subway train, Shirley MacLaine will claim she has been kidnapped by a UFO and, of course, "Princess Di will have a baby girl, while sister-in-law Fergie will have a baby boy."

SPECTRUM

It's going to turn out very nasty

Despite the freeze, floods and the gales, 1987 was an ordinary year. So say the weathermen — but, they warn, worse is coming, all of it man-made

Believe it or not, it was a fairly average year on the weather front again in 1987. During January, for instance, the day-time temperature dropped to possibly its lowest level since 1740. Central England had the second warmest April in the last 300 years... and one of the wettest June on record. Then, of course, there was Friday, October 16, the day when the wildest storm since 1703 ravaged southern England.

Abroad, too, it was all fairly average. Greece had its fiercest heatwave in 100 years, while the Alps were awash. And as India was suffering its worst drought of the century, neighbouring Bangladesh was encountering catastrophic floods.

It was all, indeed, rather unexciting, insist Tom Wigley and his fellow scientists from within the walls of their squat tower just outside the portals of the University of East Anglia in Norwich. The Climatic Research Unit has seen it all before.

"Oh no, I wouldn't say it's been an exceptional year," said the 47-year-old professor, his brow furrowing with the effort of focusing on anything as immediate as a mere 12 months.

Statistics are, of course, on his side. With so many months and bits of months available to be subjected to so many extremes of weather in so many parts of the country, the only truly remarkable year would be the one which did not manage at least two or three claims upon the record books.

If 1987 has produced no real evidence that the weather is going crazy, the Norwich team of long-term doomwatchers has little doubt, however, that it will go crazy — and that mankind's increasing reliance on the comforts of "progress" will be largely to blame.

There is, for instance, the

notorious "greenhouse effect" — the carbon dioxide layer created by the burning of fossil fuels, which allows the sun's rays free passage on their way down but blocks the radiated heat on its way back to create an inexorable rise in the temperature of the earth's crust. If that is not enough to worry about, there is also the damage being done to the sun-burn-protective ozone layer by chlorofluorocarbons, used in refrigeration and air conditioning, industrial cleaners and aerosol sprays.

Add to that the fact that the sea level is gradually rising, with the consequent risk of widespread flooding, and it becomes easier to understand why the long-range forecast for the year 2025 is looking decidedly menacing.

"We know that something is going to happen," Wigley says ominously — "the difficulty is knowing exactly what." Despite the apparent lack of maps, charts and all the other imagined trappings of a weather station — the only instrument in sight is a 100-year-old barometer which someone gave them — such uncertainty about the future is not through lack of hard work.

While one room was heavily engaged in monitoring the relative temperatures and atmospheric pressures of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, the next was drawing up a weather map for Christmas Day, 1786. The occupant of another was casting a worried glance at the historic climatology of Iceland. Just around the corner someone was studying wind energy and the most likely sites for British offshore wind generators. And, on the floor beneath, yet another group was pondering the significance of the rings in a core of wood taken from a juniper tree in Ethiopia.

It was just one more day in the life of the 10 resident scientists who make up the world's most



advanced — and highly sponsored — long-term climate research laboratory. It is largely by studying the weather patterns of the past that they aim to predict the future.

So if the world really is getting warmer, is that not good news? And if it does get hotter, would it not lead to a reduction in the use of fossil fuel and a happier balance altogether? Wigley views such simplistic notions with academic tolerance.

"In some parts of the world a higher temperature is going to lead to less rainfall and more regular droughts," he says. "Already we have evidence that by studying the pattern of sea temperatures in the tropical Atlantic we can predict the likelihood of droughts, some

months later, in the Sahel zone, the sub-Saharan area of Africa which includes Senegal, Chad, Sudan and Ethiopia.

"Looking back through the 20th century, it seems also that, as the world gets warmer, there are more cold winters in Europe. It may just be a fluke that we have had notably cold spells in five of our last nine winters — but, on the other hand, it might not.

"If the heating-up process continues, agricultural performances could be seriously compromised. No, on balance, there are more bad effects than good."

Through all the uncertainty, one great truth is beginning to shine: the world's climate, however perverse, is inextricably linked into a



global balancing act. An apparently unthreatening event in one part can have a calamitous spin-off thousands of miles away.

An exceptional warming in the sea temperature of the tropical Pacific, known as an El Niño, provides the most dramatic example. What happens is that a drop in pressure over the Pacific and a rise over the Indian Ocean causes a huge tongue of warm water to spread out along the equator from the coast of South America. Over about a year it extends all the way to New Guinea — some 8,000 miles — before slowly fading away.

Because the tropical oceans act

as the boiler house which drives the global weather engine, changes in the temperature of the Pacific can spread far and wide.

Analysis of meteorological statistics shows that the years of El Niño coincide with below average rainfall in Indonesia, much of Australia, India, south-eastern Africa, north-eastern South America, Central America and the Caribbean. On the other hand, the eastern equatorial regions of the Pacific and Africa, Sri Lanka, south-eastern South America, north Africa and southern Europe tend to have increased rainfall.

But is an ever-increasing knowledge of the cause of "freak" weather any use without an accurate way of estimating when it

THE COLD FACTS

- 1840: Coldest winter since 1895 (Western Europe's coldest winter since 1630).
- 1941: Cold winter — record snowfall in north-east (50 inches in two days in Durham).
- 1942: Cold winter — first time three cold winters in a row since 1881.
- 1947: Coldest February in 300 years, precipitating fuel crisis; wettest March in at least 100 years, plus thaw, produced some of the worst floods on record in southern England; blazing summer.
- 1952: (August 16) 10 inches of rain over Exmoor led to Lynmouth flood disaster.
- 1953: (February 1) Great North Sea storm produced worst damage and floods in more than 200 years — nearly 2,000 people died in UK and Netherlands.
- 1956: Cold spell — February 1 had lowest daytime maximum since 1895.
- 1963: Coldest winter since 1740 in southern England.
- 1964: Driest winter since 1743.
- 1975: Mildest winter since 1889.
- 1976: Hottest, driest summer in at least 300 years.
- 1979: Winter of Discontent — first five months of 1979 had a combination of cold and wet not matched in at least 150 years.
- 1981/82: Cold spells in December and January established record night-time lows in England and Scotland (-25°C near Strassburg and -27°C at Braemar).
- 1983: Hottest July in at least 300 years.
- 1985: Notable cold spells in both January and February.
- 1987: Cold spell — January 12 featured exceptionally low daytime temperature, possibly without equal since 1740; great storm in October unequalled in southern England since 1703.

will occur, at what frequency and how severely?

"Certainly it is," says Wigley. "If you live in Los Angeles, for instance, you don't know when the next earthquake is coming but you do know that one is going to happen. Buildings, therefore, must be planned accordingly."

Earthquakes might be natural phenomena, but aerosols aren't. And the message from Norwich is chilling. If we know that we are destabilizing the world's climate we must either change our ways or prepare for the consequence — whenever that might be.

W. J. Burroughs and William Greaves

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Going for the glamour

Those refined creatures from the art market are hibernating, gathering strength for the spring season which starts at the end of next month. Judging from the amount of goods Christie's reports flooding in during December, when they awake there should be more on offer than ever before.

It may well be one of the most glamorous seasons too, with sales of the effects of Noel Coward, Liberace and Andy Warhol.

But there are clouds, too. The spectre of the stock market crash still casts its shadow, and no one knows whether it will soon block out the sun. There could also be executive changes at Sotheby's and Christie's. Having postponed his much-heralded flotation earlier this month, Alfred Taubman, Sotheby's owner and Detroit magnate, may still go ahead. Meanwhile, Swiss and British predators have been circling Christie's, and there is the chance of a takeover.

Last season was punctuated with its share of adventure. There was euphoria over record prices for Impressionist paintings — \$7.5 million for Degas' "Laundry Maids", \$4.1 million for Picasso's Cubist painting "Souvenir de Havre" and finally the giddy,

artfile

A weekly look at the art world

Sarah Jane Checkland



For sale, collections in the grand style: Liberace and Warhol

After 12 months of record breaking, a brisk start is expected to the new auction year with an injection of showbiz glitter



world record \$30.2 million for Van Gogh's "Irises" in New York earlier this month.

Often the ups for one auction house mean the downs for another. Sotheby's had two major embarrassments, first when Phillips sold a master-

piece by Annibale Carracci for \$247,000, after a representative from Sotheby's had valued it at a dismissive \$400, and second when Christie's sold Sebastiano del Piombo's painting of Pope Clement VII for \$418,000, after Sotheby's had auctioned it, incorrectly catalogued for a miserable \$170 in June.

Two newcomers on the international art scene met with varying fortunes during the autumn. The Swiss auction house Habsburg-Feldman suffered a catastrophic start in Geneva, much of their stock failing to sell, but the French fared better with Paris's new auction venue, the refurbished Theatre Champs-Elysees.

In general, euphoria was dampened by the gradual realization that lesser quality goods were becoming unpopular. In Sotheby's secondary Impressionist sale on December 2, 43 per cent was bought in. English paintings suffered badly on November 18, with nearly half the goods failing to sell, again at Sotheby's.

Much of what is in store for the coming season has been kept under wraps. That is, apart from the three "showbiz" sales, two of which involve the effects of 20th

century stars who died earlier this year. First, Christie's are selling the classy-but-kitsch belongings of Liberace in Los Angeles, from April 10-13; a unique chance to acquire one of his many vulgar grand pianos. And for those without the specs, there is the famous collection of miniature pianos, some automated, others requiring the touch of tiny fingers. There will be Cadillac and Chryslers, leopardskin rugs and a Baccarat crystal table, produced in 1850 for the Maharajah Bahadur Shah II, its legs turned like so many candy canes.

New York at the end of April will see Sotheby's selling Andy Warhol's art collection in a marathon 3,000-lot sale, stretching over 10 days. Promising to be an altogether more tasteful affair, it will include contemporary art (such as David Hockney's portrait of Warhol and works by Jasper Johns), English 19th century painting (an important work by Alma Tadema) and modern (paintings by Picasso). It shows how much a serious collector can cram into an elegant town house in Manhattan.

Finally in this trio of performer/collectors is Noel Coward. On February 18 Christie's, London, is to sell the only group of paintings by him — brightly coloured land and townscapes, with a gross estimate of £300,000.

On a more mundane level, Sotheby's have in store John Martin's extraordinary, visionary painting of "The Assailing of the Waters"; Constable's "View of Hampstead Heath"; the Cistercian collection of 16th and 17th century Dutch and Flemish Old Masters; and Old Master prints from the collection of Dr Albert Blum.

At Christie's there will be a major still-life by Jan de Heem at their New York Old Masters sale on January 15, estimated at more than \$4 million, and three works by Jean Honoré Fragonard, the French painter, as well as their first sale of exclusively Scandinavian pictures, with works by many emergent names — such as Anders Zorn and Carl Larsson.

Artfile resumes its regular Thursday slot next week.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1450

ACROSS

- 1 Remembrance flower (8)
- 5 Apartment (4)
- 9 Lucky dip (4,3)
- 10 Eskimo shelter (5)
- 11 Fight (5)
- 12 Arab tribe leader (5)
- 13 Append (5)
- 15 Evident (5)
- 16 Maritime map (7)
- 18 Equal (5)
- 20 Newspaper trade (5)
- 21 Pride (7)
- 22 Benefit (4)
- 24 Chastise (8)

DOWN

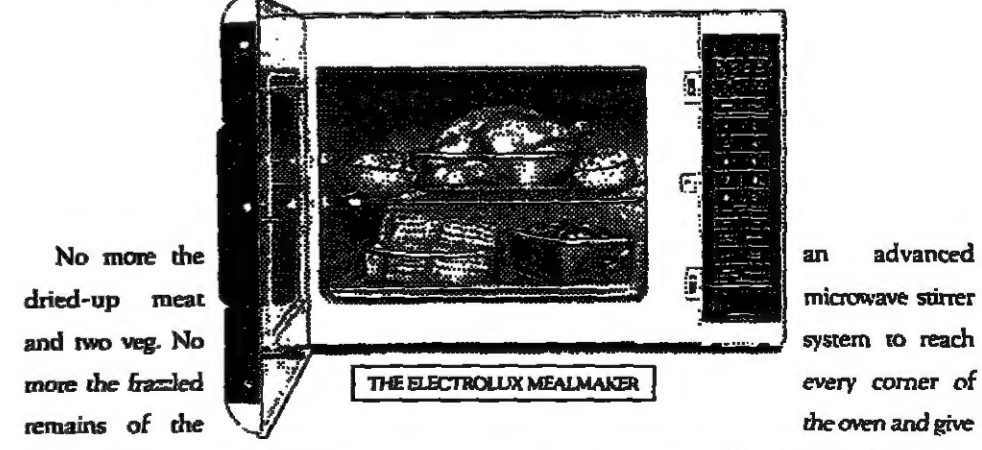
- 1 Hydrophobia (6)
- 2 Headlong rush (8)
- 3 Judo floor (3)
- 4 Farewell My (6)
- 6 Lounge about (4)
- 7 Chest (6)
- 8 Spent off promptly (8)
- 11 Brisk dash (8)
- 14 Mornel (8)
- 15 University site (6)
- 17 Great dread (6)
- 19 Feeble (4)
- 22 Flying saucer (1,1,1)

SOLUTION TO NO 1449

ACROSS: 1 Recoup 5 Sprawl 8 Lop 9 Nausea 10 Extort 11 Lur 12 Eurocast 14 Sir Georg Solti 17 Amenable 19 Site 21 Enmity 23 Tragic 24 Too 25 Flimsy

DOWN: 2 Erase 3 Ostracism 4 Piccolo 5 Spear 6 Rot 7 Warship 13 Croissant 15 Immortal 16 Gheeno 18 Buty 20 Trill 22 Arm

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THE TIMES DIARY

Mandarin match

A power struggle between two Whitehall heavyweights is set to enliven the political arena in the new year: in one corner, the new Cabinet Secretary Robin Butler; in the other, his former superior at the Treasury, Sir Peter Middleton. Grammar-school-educated Middleton was said to be miffed when Butler, an old Harrovian and former principal private secretary to the PM, leaptfrogged into Whitehall's number one post for which Middleton was also a candidate. The first trial of strength is likely to come over a secret report on Civil Service reorganization, one effect of which will be to diminish the power wielded by the Treasury. Middleton, permanent secretary at the Treasury, is not a man to go down without a fight. Butler's deputy at the Cabinet Office, Hayden Phillips, is tipped to implement the efficiency drive but needs a promotion to have the power to go into action. The upgrading of the post has to be approved by Middleton, holder of the purse strings.

Altruism

In my book politicians' motives are always suspect, but on poll tax Edward Heath is in the clear. It's a long time since he wielded power and now it seems that personal financial gain means nothing to him. Heath's next-door neighbour in the Cathedral Close at Salisbury, businessman Parry Mitchell, has disclosed that his annual poll tax charge would be £185 instead of the £1,750 he now pays in rates. So if Heath were to benefit similarly, his attack on the Ridley bill must be put down to genuine feeling — either that or, perhaps, sheer anti-Thatcher bloody-mindedness.

So keen is David Taylor, the new editor of *Punch*, to dispel its image as something feared in yellowing stacks in dental surgeries that he is holding next week's relaunch party in a dentist's waiting room. Taylor presumably sees the Wimpole Street do as a parting gesture to dentists everywhere from a magazine that has done so much to anesthetise patients. He promises intriguingly that once he has finished rejuvenating *Punch* no dentist will want it within a mile of his premises.

Going digital

Denis Healey has waited until his 71st year to learn the value of the gentle touch. The political bruiser confides that his giant fingers are playing havoc with the tiny keyboard on his portable computer as he bashes out the first chapters of his autobiography. He promises that the tome, which he has reportedly received an advance of £100,000, will be nothing like the "railway timetables" of Harold Macmillan and Wilson or the "dreary diaries" of Tony Benn.

BARRY FANTONI



I apologize for the confusion, Mr. Ind, but PC Smith is particularly pleased with his snags of the *Acropolis*.

Dressing down

A sartorial question is perplexing Boston, Massachusetts: should a proposed statue of John Kennedy have the top button of the suit done or undone? Sculptors competing for the design commission from the stage legislature have taken advice from Brooks Brothers, the New York top person's outfitter. "Brooks says the top button should be undone, otherwise the suit is thrown out of line," said a local senator sniffily.

Price of silence

Following the admonitions about abandoning newly-acquired pets after Christmas, a horrid new practice has come to light in North Yorkshire. The market town of Stokesley has been hit by a sharp rise in sheep rustling (formerly more usual in Wales) and it is believed that thieves are employing sheepdogs whose vocal cords have been cut. Norman Swales, the local NFU secretary, says: "It's really bad. We're talking about organized crime." Up to 100 lambs a month — worth £5,000 — have been taken at night in the past year. The RSPCA, which has received similar reports, said yesterday that even if it encountered a sheepdog that had been mutilated in this way it would be hard to prove cruelty. "In some cases, as when an old person's pet is disturbing the neighbours in a densely populated area, we reluctantly agree that debarking is better than putting down the animal. But we do deplore it."

PHS

Why Victorian values cannot carry the NHS

by Dr Thomas Stuttford



Florence Nightingale, epitome of selfless nursing dedication: today a sense of vocation is not enough to staff the wards

upheaval in education and with it the growing need for medical staff to have an income comparable to that of other professions. Of all the resources the NHS uses, and pays for, the question of staff, their pay and terms of service is the most crucial for the future smooth running of the service, and it is also the most politically sensitive. The controversy concentrates around the two extremes of the medical hierarchy, nurses and consultants. A great deal of nonsense about both has now been incorporated in the current political mythology. The truth is that nurses are not paid a high enough salary to attract enough of the quality needed and the quantity required.

The 1966 Salmon Report denigrated the role of patient care and ward work and relegated its importance to a position secondary to that of administration, thereby belittling a nurse's vocational enthusiasm, a vocation further blunted by the changing mores of the generation and financial stringency. Other factors have played a part. A nurse's social life, once better than that of her counterparts, is now worse, restricted by the need to work inconvenient hours, and the hospital *esprit de corps* is weakened by the grim realities of care shortages and dingy buildings. The NHS now employs a greater number of nurses than in many

comparable countries but their quality is falling. Last week a large nursing school in Norfolk was closed because its standard was so low that the Royal College of Nursing could no longer give its approval. It is unlikely that the latest Youth Training Scheme will provide the type of nurse needed to stay in the profession, to which recruits in the future may well have to be of sufficient calibre to be potential paramedics.

As the political left attempts to belittles the nurses and blames the problems of the NHS on the Conservatives' failure to recruit more, other politicians have joined with them and the NHS administrators in attacking the hospital consultants. The result is a grossly inaccurate picture. The majority of consultants work long hours, far longer than expected from their contracts, have small or non-existent private practices and have to do their best for the patients while contending with the stresses resulting from the present troubled state of the NHS. Few are interested in establishing their own petty empires and, although well paid by NHS standards, their income is only a fraction of that earned by their contemporaries working overseas or in comparable British professions.

The immediate response to staffing and other problems is to suggest that they would be solved by spending more money, but as in any state monopoly the normal checks to see that value is obtained do not operate. Better to analyse the problem of the NHS by breaking it down into its constituent parts so that the money available may be initially directed to improving staff morale and aiding recruitment.

It must be assumed that the greater part of NHS funding will continue to come from taxation, but if a better service is to be produced every effort is needed to create a managerial and entrepreneurial spirit within it, and to investigate ways in which the private sector can ease the load on an institution set up to fight the medical battles of 40 years ago. In today's climate to rely upon the Victorian and Edwardian values of vocation is as anachronistic as it was for the Poles to use cavalry against the Wehrmacht in 1939.

Woodrow Wyatt

How distant the Duma

In the last years of the 19th century Russian industrial expansion began to soar remarkably. The growth rate ran at 15 to 20 per cent a year and higher. Russia was fast becoming a modern country and the pressures for a more modern political system were intense.

Hence the Duma which met in 1906, elected on a restricted franchise but nevertheless fairly representative of popular attitudes. The Tsarist regime had allowed chinks in its absolutism while retaining all manner of vetoes, prerogatives, and control of the army and the police. The second Duma elected in 1907 was more radical than the first, with Socialists and the Labour group consisting mostly of peasant leaders almost forming a majority. Tsarist alterations in the electoral law produced a result slightly more favourable to absolutism in the third Duma (1907-12) and in the fourth Duma (1912-17). But the cat was out of the bag.

It was the Tsarist dissolution of the troublesome fourth Duma early in 1917 which precipitated the first revolution and the creation of the provisional government headed by Kerensky. When the Bolsheviks saw they had lost the subsequent elections to the constituent assembly they overthrew by force Kerensky's democratic government in the second, October, revolution. The Bolsheviks knew that if democracy were to be a part of the proceedings there could be no communist state.

So began a more rigid autocratic control in Russia than there had been during the latter part of Tsarist rule. In a jerky sporadic way the Tsars had been letting in the light, and their ensuing fate was an object lesson to the Russian communists. Stalin saw the dangers of Lenin's New Economic Policy which permitted considerable private enterprise; it might make the country more prosperous but it made it much more difficult to govern. With Lenin's death in 1924 that was the end of all private enterprise and the beginning of the dark night which ended the possibility of steady economic progress in Russia comparable with that in other European countries.

Mr Gorbachev, being highly intelligent, is aware of all this. In his book, *Perestroika*, he writes sympathetically of Lenin's NEP. But large numbers of people doing their own thing leads to a demand for democracy, and once any of that heady stuff is around bang goes the Communist Party. Mr Gorbachev's problem is identical to that of the Tsars. Already it seems that many Russians are aware that changes under Gorbachev are happening and that they like the softening, still minimal, of the severity of the regime. This is what worries the Old Guard communists who understand why the Tsars came to a sticky end as well as anyone, and are unwilling to let Mr Gorbachev prepare a similar one for them.

At present all in the Kremlin

can agree that reducing the load of the Soviet arms budget would make way for some growth in the civil sector and some higher prosperity.

Mr Gorbachev's position has been strengthened by his success in Washington. It enables him to continue gingerly the improvement of human rights, making Russia feel a trifle more open society to its inhabitants. As the Russians are still kept from the knowledge of what life is like in the non-communist industrialized countries he may have a few years not having to do very much in this direction without discontent rising uncontrollably.

But it is unrealistic to suppose Mr Gorbachev could suddenly let a multitude of Russians take holidays in the West, because the news of what they had seen would be unsettling. The Soviet press, now occasionally prints criticisms of government policy previously unthinkable, but that departure cannot go far. As soon as genuine and widespread controversy were allowed the failures of the communist system would rapidly be exposed. The notion that real elections between Communist Party candidates and those opposed to communism could occur is laughable: if the elections were conducted anything like fairly Russia would soon be back to the Dumas and communism would be on the way out.

So what can we reasonably expect from Mr Gorbachev? Principally, that the outmoded Russian dogma that the West wants to attack Russia and that she must always over-protect herself against this threat will gradually disappear. This could lead to a relaxation of the military domination of the East European countries, slowly permitting them in the next 30 years or so to become thriving democracies.

But we must not be too optimistic. Mr Gorbachev has not so far felt himself strong enough even to remove Soviet troops from Afghanistan. That is why Mrs Thatcher is right to encourage him in his reforms while not surrendering the British nuclear capacity effectively to deter a Kremlin which might shed Mr Gorbachev in favour of an autocrat or autocrats who could not stay in power without resurrecting the bogey of hostile encirclement by capitalist enemies.

While Mr Gorbachev is there he offers a tiny hope that Russia may become something like a civilized nation. But it is devilishly difficult for him even if he is not a dedicated communist at heart (which for all we know he may be), perhaps believing that tinkering with the system will enable it to respond sufficiently to the aspirations and needs of ordinary Russians which cannot indefinitely be held in check. His emphasis on mixing with the people in a way no other Russian ruler has done indicates that he knows his real constituency is not in the Kremlin but in the masses. This is all to the good.

however . . . Pearson Phillips

Wise men keep on the move

I don't want to trespass on the territory of more learned colleagues, but Humphrey Bogart uttered a word in *The Maltese Falcon* late on Sunday evening which had me reaching for the *Oxford English Dictionary*. "They are getting rambunctious," he growled. Surely he made it up. But no, "US slang. 1854. Of unknown origin. Wild or unruly behaviour."

So in answer to your question, I will say yes, I had a very good Christmas, although it was a little rambunctious in parts. I learnt much. Dry Martini makes an excellent substitute for sherry in pleasant soup. In 1164 it cost £4,193.9s.3d to build a castle in Suffolk. And oh, short for objections, is acceptable in Scrabble under Hertfordshire rules.

As with most great games, people either play Christmas at home or away. It's been like that since the first one, when you think about it. The characters in the Christmas story divide neatly into those who visit and those who wait to be visited. No doubt there are psychological insights to be gleaned from whether a person feels most natural emulating the travelling wise men or the family in the stable.

I have enjoyed both roles in my time. The static years were good, worrying whether the turkey would fit, working out how to seat 16 at a table for 12. But joining the wifeless "uncles" and all the other wandering star-seekers at Christmas has its pleasures too. Everyone should try it.

How nice, for instance, to wake up in the back of a Land-Rover in a Venice car park on Christmas morning. A dank fog lay over the lagoon. A deep, resonant bonging came from St Mark's. A brief bit of nostalgic weepiness as we opened presents from home, and then off on a *vaporetto*, packed with Venetians carrying little presents for grandma, to Harry's Bar for turkey and pasta. There were two English ladies eating together across the room. We sent them a note. "Please join our Christmas game. We will try to guess what you are and you can guess what we are. Winners buy the brandy." We got it wrong. They were Foreign Office, not headmistresses. But

they got us in one. "Media." The brandies lasted until tea-time. Very rambunctious.

Pakistan was very different. Christmas Day found me at a vast religious gathering. But it was, of course, a Muslim religious gathering. I felt lonely and alienated. I couldn't even find the Queen's speech on BBC World Service. I went down to the railway station to watch trains crammed with pilgrims coming in and unloading on to the seating platform.

Suddenly I heard a voice: "Mister, Mister. Are you a Christian?" It was the guard, smart in braided cap and whistle. Ye I said, "Me too," he said, grinning at the bearded horse around us. "Happy Christmas!" And this year? I was in the horse-seeking mode again. In the course of dropping in on other people's Christmas, I discovered that most cheerful of Yuletide figures, a grown man with a favourite toy. Women may like to think that Christmas is about the family and the spiritual meaning of the Nativity, but we men have been conditioned from childhood to know that it is really about getting a toy and playing with it.

One of the finest things a yachtsman can find in his stocking, so I learn, is a piece of electronic wizardry called a Decca navigator. This precious object, which works with the help of satellites, can tell you among other things exactly where you are on the earth's surface. And my host had got one. But how to play with it? It is the middle of winter. The boat is propped up on the front lawn. Not much point in finding out where we were. We knew.

But grown men are not to be put off by a little reality like that. So we sat in the lawn-bound hull, imagining we were I know not where, feeling, possibly, a faint swell, and asked the magical box to tell us how far away we were from the South Pole. It obliged. Then we asked for the distance to the North Pole. It came up with the answer. "By adding these two together," said my host, "we can find the distance between the poles." It came to 10,799 nautical miles. Who needs Bethlehem's star when you have a Decca navigator?

Tim Congdon argues that Britain's good economic performance in 1987 is part of a cycle revolving around general elections and that we could be in for belt-tightening in 1988

decline in the absolute number unemployed, which looks likely to exceed half a million; it is worst in terms of the unemployment rate prevailing both during and at the end of the year. Of course, the good and the bad are related. Unemployment could not have come down so much if it had not been particularly serious at the outset.

It seems barely credible nowadays that in 1954 the unemployment rate was 1.3 per cent and the number unemployed about a quarter of a million. Of course, in such circumstances unemployment could not have fallen by as much as it has in 1987. Perhaps the best verdict on labour market efficiency in 1987 is that it is worse than in any of the other good post-war years, but also shows the greatest improvement from an unsatisfactory level.

Arguably, the message of the unemployment numbers is ambiguous and does not give a straightforward view of ranking 1987 in relation to the other years. An assessment of the record of the real economy therefore turns on the growth rate, which leaves 1987

rate, while 1960 and 1987 share the silver and the bronze because they reconciled high growth with financial control.

But to draw this conclusion is to betray a basic flaw in the exercise. Although no one doubts that 1973 was a splendid year for the British economy by itself, it was followed by the two miserable years in 1974 and 1975. They saw the slowest growth, the highest inflation and the worst payments deficits since the war. Moreover, there is widespread agreement among economists that the traumas of 1974 and 1975 were retribution for the excessive stimulus applied by government policy in 1972 and 1973.

The point is that a well-balanced assessment of economic achievement should proceed not by picking out particular years in isolation, but by looking at the periods of years which span business cycles. In any economy there is an almost biblical inevitability about the way fat years are followed by lean and booms by busts. Governments try to ensure that booms coincide with election years and like to pretend that the above-trend growth at that time is proof of the long-term success of their policies. The reality is that above-trend growth always gives way to beneath-trend growth, while the slowdown often coincides with a marked worsening in every aspect of economic performance.

Mr Lawson, who has clearly enjoyed presiding over the 1987 boom, may sincerely believe that 1988 and 1989 will also be good years. But there are ample grounds for thinking that 1987 has been a standard cyclical upturn, with all its excitements, and that 1988 and 1989 will be a standard cyclical downturn, with all its disappointments. In 1954, 1960, 1964 and 1973 most Conservative politicians believed that the better economic numbers were signs not of cyclical recovery but of trend improvement. On every occasion they were wrong. Perhaps it is not surprising that Mr Lawson — who is a seasoned campaigner with long experience of British economic cycles — would like to move to the Foreign Office in the next major Cabinet reshuffle. The author is chief UK economist at Shearson Lehman Brothers, the securities house.

Eight best post-war years for the economy

	Growth of GDP %	Inflation % rise in RPI to Q4	Unemployment - Change in year '000s	Rate %	Balance of payments current acct as % GDP
1954	4.2	3.3	-69	1.3	+0.7
1959	4.0	0.0	-75	2.3	+0.8
1960	5.6	1.7	-87	1.7	-1.0
1963	4.1	2.0	-74	2.6	+0.5
1964	5.5	4.5	-119	1.7	-1.3
1968	4.2	5.4	-5	2.5	-0.7
1973	7.3	10.2	-265	2.6	-1.6
1987	4.25	3.75-4	-350	10.4	-0.5

*All figures for 1987 are estimates.

Growth of GDP is given for average measure of GDP; unemployment relates to seasonally adjusted, UK, excluding school-leavers, and shows change in year to fourth quarter; unemployment rate uses same definition and relates to average of year.

Sources: *Economic Trends, Annual Supplement* and *Economic Statistics 1900-1983*, Economist Publications.



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NEW POWERS IN THE GULF

Yesterday the six Gulf states which make up the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) called for United Nations sanctions against Iran. They will receive more attention in Tehran than might have been the case two months ago. There are signs that the tides are changing in the Gulf.

The GCC's attempt to remind the world of UN Resolution 598, which called for an immediate ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq seven-year war, does not look as forlorn as once it did. One reason is an apparent change of emphasis in Damascus. Mr Farouk al-Sharaa, Syria's foreign minister, arrived in Tehran yesterday with a "brotherly" message from President Assad which, considering the two countries' friendly relations, was not in itself surprising. But Mr al-Sharaa has been to Tehran, Riyadh and now Baghdad again within a week. His talks with King Fahd, while the Saudi monarch was host to the GCC's four-day summit, have encouraged speculation that Damascus is assuming a role as mediator.

This theory has been strengthened by the news that Syria and Iraq are preparing to reopen a long-closed border post — one of several moves intended to improve their relationship. The two national airlines are expected to resume flights between Damascus and Baghdad very soon. A group of Syrian businessmen went to Baghdad only last month.

Both Jordan and Saudi Arabia have laboured to heal the long-standing rift between the rival Baath governments of Syria and Iraq. Signs that they might have succeeded were first evident at last month's Arab summit in Amman, where President Assad agreed to a resolution condemning Ayatollah Khomeini for refusing to heed the call for a Gulf war ceasefire. If this can be accomplished without damaging Syrian friendship with Iran, it will place President Assad in a unique position and cast him in a historic international role as peacemaker.

But the Syrians are not the only ones on the move. President Mubarak of Egypt leaves

Cairo in 10 days' time for a week-long tour of the six GCC countries before visiting the United States and Western Europe. His country's economic problems will weigh most heavily with him on his travels. But discussions about the Gulf War will also be prominent on his agenda.

Nine Arab states restored diplomatic relations with Egypt last month after breaking them off following Cairo's peace treaty with Israel. The return of Egypt to the Middle East centre stage restores to the Arab world its most powerful and potentially most influential member.

News of Mr Mubarak's new year journey has coincided with reports of an agreement with Riyadh to send 10,000 Egyptian troops to Saudi Arabia. These would replace a similar force of Pakistani soldiers who are being withdrawn, and would inherit their role of reinforcing Saudi security. Egypt needs the money — and the Saudis need the military manpower.

How far the Security Council might go in implementing the arms embargo on Iran is a moot point. There are contradictory reports of Soviet attitudes, including one which says that the Russians would support an arms boycott — but only if the 80 or so Western warships in the Gulf were withdrawn. At the same time, Russian influence in Tehran is said to have improved as the Iranians seek to play one superpower against the other.

In any case, an arms embargo, while making life more difficult for Iran, would not make it impossible. The difficulty all along has been the irrationality of Iran, which has fought with a fanatical zeal rather than clear political objectives. Might they listen to reason now?

Faced simply by an ultimatum from the Security Council, the answer would probably be "no." But the signs of commitment by Egypt, which has the military power to underline its point, and the political intervention of the Syrians, suggest that the mullahs might for once take heed.

A CHURCH OF SINNERS

The General Synod of the Church of England was itself responsible for a good deal of the confusion which followed its debate on homosexuality last November. The House of Bishops abstained on an amendment calling for "appropriate discipline" to be applied by themselves to practising homosexuals among the clergy. That gave the impression that they were not prepared to do anything about it, even in the light of an adverse judgement on the morality of homosexuality by the Synod itself.

Gradually the bishops seem to have realised that this impression needs correcting. The Bishop of Ripon, the Right Rev David Young, has clarified his own position. He says he will not support the ordination or appointment of a practising homosexual in or to his diocese. It is a clarification for which most of his episcopal colleagues will be grateful, as others of them have since indicated.

All, however, is not what it seems. It is relatively easy for a bishop to exercise control over those he refers for ordination training. A candidate can reasonably be expected to submit himself to a fairly rigorous examination at the time he offers himself. He can be asked whether he knows himself to be of a homosexual disposition, and if so whether he is, or claims the right to be, sexually active in that respect. In the light of the General Synod's November resolution, a candidate who declares as such about himself will have no right to complain if he is deemed unsuitable. But it is hardly the type of question a bishop can casually drop into his conversation with an incumbent clergyman over the tea cups during a visitation.

But even if there are grounds for suspicion, a bishop must tread very warily. In a church of and for sinners, sinfulness is not of itself a barrier to an effective ministry. The Church of England has never fully endorsed the Protestant Reformers' view of the "total depravity"

of human nature, but it is further still from believing itself to be constituted entirely of uncanonized saints. And it has never been the doctrine of the Church that the preaching of the Gospel or the administration of the Sacraments depends on the worthiness of the minister. A church which prays daily "Lord, have mercy on us" should know that the clergy (and bishops) are no more immaculate than the laity.

In a well-attested case which gives scandal to the flock, however, a bishop surely ought to intervene, at first with a warning, later with an ultimatum, and ultimately with action. Otherwise he allows his and the Church's authority to be mocked. Any clergyman of the Church of England who honestly believes that a permanent faithful homosexual relationship is compatible with Christian teaching has to face the fact that his church, through the General Synod, has judged differently; and if he insists on acting on his belief then his position has become untenable.

It would be a disaster for the Church, however, if such considerations gave rise to a general mood of suspicion and denunciation. Celibate homosexuals who accept the Church's discipline must not be pilloried for being what they are. In many cases they make outstanding pastors, with qualities of sensitivity and sympathy which make them particularly valuable in this vocation. One of the unfortunate by-products of an atmosphere of prurient curiosity in the Church, which existed as much before last November's Synod debate as after it, is the damage it does to the possibility of genuine friendships between clergymen. The clergyman's life can be stressful and isolating, particularly if he is single. The obvious form of emotional support open to him is that between professional colleagues. This should not be a cause for suspicion, but for thanksgiving.

GERMAN STRENGTHS

One impression given by West Germany is outgoing and hearty — all beer drinking, hiking, and concern for the environment. Another is prosperous, efficient, and — when observed by other Europeans on holiday — even slightly arrogant. With both, however, there sits a tendency to brood.

What West Germans brood on is the destiny of Germany and the state of their society. As 1987 comes to an end, they are brooding again. In fact, West Germany remains Europe's most powerful economy. The decline of the steel industry has dealt a blow to German self-confidence. But the European steel industry as a whole is in crisis. Bonn is in trouble with other industrialised countries because the Deutschmark is too strong, not because it is too weak. West Germany is a crucial European exporter. Its alleged failure is to stimulate domestic demand. That is a refusal rather than a failure.

In Nato, West German anxiety is caused by a feeling that, after the INF (intermediate-range nuclear forces) treaty, the country is uniquely exposed to the Soviet threat, both nuclear and conventional. There is a natural aversion to the thought of missiles fired from West Germany destroying Leipzig or Dresden. But this does not mean that West Germany is prey to the idea of a neutral, reunified Germany. West Germans, for all their concern, are fully aware of Soviet bloc machinations. Equally, West German democracy itself is not in doubt. It offers a vigorous reminder to the authoritarian communists of "the other Germany" of how a free Germany can function.

There was none the less a note of bewilderment and unease in West German reactions to events this year. It is as if West Germans, even though their political democracy and free economy have proved them-

selves over four decades, fear that the system lacks deep roots. Hence the constant refrain from Chancellor Kohl downwards that West Germany has paid its dues, cleaned the slate of the past, and can stand tall in the world.

The Barschel affair was a reminder of corruption past and more recent. The post-war economic miracle has faded because it is now taken for granted. The falling dollar, low capital investment and declining industries are creating a climate in which the West German economic machine no longer looks quite so invincible.

There are, however, ways of coping with a national loss of direction without becoming bogged down in self examination. Britain had to cope with the same loss not long ago. West Germany takes on a key European responsibility when it takes over the Presidency of the EEC for six months from the first of January. Europe as a whole needs all the leadership and direction it can find for the 1990s. West Germany, with its key economic, political and strategic role, ought to be well placed to provide some of it. But Herr Kohl, beset by coalition antagonisms between his own Christian Democrats, the Christian Social Union (CSU) and the Free Democrats (FDP), has not yet attained, in the eyes of Europe or the world, the stature of some of his predecessors as Chancellor.

It is in Europe's interests that he, or a successor, does so. West Germans are inclined to accuse the rest of Europe of not understanding West Germany's sensitivities. They should instead take heart from the proven strengths of their democracy. They should use those strengths to come through their latest broodings and take a full part in guiding Europe through the next decade.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disengagement in central Europe

From Lord Mayhew
Sir, In your leader of December 21 you draw attention to the imbalance of conventional forces in Europe and argue with perfect logic that security from surprise attack "could be created by simply withdrawing the 30 Soviet divisions to the Soviet Union."

However, you then go on to assume, in line with conventional wisdom, that Mr Gorbachev would in all circumstances reject this idea. This may well be true; but it is worth recalling that it was a Soviet government which first put the proposal forward.

In 1957, Bulganin informed Adenauer that the Soviet Government was ready to withdraw its armed forces from Germany, as well as from other countries where they are stationed in conformity with the Warsaw Pact, provided that the armed forces of the United States, Great Britain and France were withdrawn from the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany and from other Nato countries.

The offer was rejected, and may not have been sincere, but if the Russians could put it forward 30 years ago, at a time of far greater mutual distrust, it is hard to see why they should reject it out of hand today. True, disengagement would lose them their powerful strategic position in the centre of Europe. It would mean the end of the Brezhnev doctrine and a further blow to Marxist mythology. Worse, it would mean a reunified Germany (albeit strictly neutral and non-nuclear).

In return, however, their gains would be massive: the departure of the American forces and an end to any credible invasion threat, huge savings in defence expenditure, and a chance to liquidate their failing satellite empire without unacceptable loss of face.

Looked at objectively, this would seem a fair bargain. But for obvious reasons Mr Gorbachev could never make a proposal himself. To unsettle the satellites without a firm prospect of Western reciprocity would be folly. The initiative would have to come from the West.

Unfortunately mere discussion of disengagement is anathema to the military and political establishment of the West. Any departure of American forces is simply assumed, without argu-

State control of the universities

From Professor F. G. B. Millar

Sir, I sincerely hope that, before it is too late, Conservative MPs will examine the Education Reform Bill more carefully and ponder the extraordinary apparatus of State control of the universities which is being set up for use by any future government, of the right or the left. The vital points are the following:

The University Grants Committee will be abolished. In its place there will be a Universities Funding Council (UFC). Its 15 members will be appointed by the secretary of state, as will its chairman, and they may be dismissed by him if he thinks them unfit.

The UFC's duty will be to "make payments" to universities; the secretary of state may "transfer or impose" further functions on it as he sees fit, and his grants to it will be subject to such conditions as he may determine. The UFC must comply with any directions given by the secretary of state; it will have no right or duty to make representations or give advice to him.

In case that were not enough, the secretary of state may appoint a representative to attend any meeting of the UFC or of any of its committees. He may also call for any papers circulated to the UFC, or to any of its committees.

In its turn, the UFC will have power to attach any terms and conditions which it may think fit to any payment to any university; universities will be obliged to supply the UFC with any information that it may require. If the UFC judges, unilaterally, that the conditions imposed have not been fulfilled, it may demand repayment with interest.

No statutory limitations are laid down anywhere in this chain of command and no reference to academic freedom appears in the Bill. Finally, at the end of the chain of command, each university, under new statutes which are to be "instituted" by commissioners appointed for the purpose, will have power to dismiss any member of staff either for "good

cause" or because it no longer intends to carry on the activity on which that member of staff is engaged.

There is no reference in the Bill to due procedure before dismissal, only to appeals subsequent to dismissal. These new terms of employment, under a Bill which is not yet law, and under statutes imposed by commissioners who have not yet been appointed, apply to any contract made on November 20, 1987, or after. At the present moment no university can offer a contract of employment which will be legally binding in future, for such a contract will be liable to variation by retrospective legislation.

The Conservative election manifesto promised an independent UFC. The UFC proposed by the Bill is patently not independent. I cannot believe that any self-respecting person will consent to serve on a body which is to be so wholly subordinate to Whitehall. Yours faithfully, F. G. B. MILLAR, Brasenose College, Oxford, December 18.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 30 1926

The development in inter-continental communication described here came 60 years after Graham Bell's successful demonstration of the telephone

TELEPHONING TO NEW YORK

BUSINESS MEN'S VIEWS.

QUESTIONS OF SPEED AND COST.

The announcement of the opening of a telephone service between London and New York early next year is welcomed in the City and in business circles generally, for it is realised that any extension of Transatlantic communications must react favourably on the trade and commerce of this country. There is, however, a disposition to regard the experiment with a certain degree of caution, and until the new system has been working for some time it will be impossible to say whether it will be largely used. Obviously its popularity must depend on its utility, and it is emphasized that speed and reliability are two essential features of successful services.

Members of the Stock Exchange, Lloyd's and the Baltic were yesterday rather inclined to adopt a "wait and see" attitude, and it is probable that at first the Transatlantic service will be chiefly used by commercial firms in the case of important negotiations involving large financial interests, where a few minutes' conversation over the telephone between the two principals on either side of the Atlantic might solve difficulties which otherwise would prove serious. The recent transference of the White Star Line was a case in point in which the new system might have been useful. The speed at which messages can be telegraphed to America and replies received appears to be satisfactory, and it is doubtful whether the Transatlantic telephone system will give so rapid a service. At present it is stated to be possible to telegraph to America and receive a reply in less than five minutes.

At Lloyd's, particularly, the feeling yesterday was that a telegram to New York would be quicker and more reliable than a telephone call. Moreover, it was stated, members like to have transactions before them in "black and white", so that there could be no mistake. At present, long-distance telephony was very little used by underwriters, although it was somewhat extensively adopted by brokers. There was, however, no inclination to "pour cold water" on the new service; indeed, the opinion was freely expressed that it would be a distinct advantage to be able to telephone to America if necessary. The fee to be charged — £15 for a conversation of three minutes and 25 for each additional minute — was not regarded as in any way prohibitive. "If you are negotiating a deal running into thousands of pounds, a matter of £15 will not break you," was one statement made.

ONLY A BEGINNING. There was, however, considerable comment on the fact that the service is to be limited strictly to subscribers in the London and New York telephone areas. It was recognized that this was only the beginning, but the hope was expressed that the service might soon be extended to towns like Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and Sheffield in this country, and Chicago, Boston and Washington in the United States. Most of the business in the Baltic is transacted with Chicago, and an extension to the great grain centre would be particularly welcome. But the Post Office authorities state there are many technical difficulties still to be overcome before it will be possible to extend the system indiscriminately to any part of the United Kingdom. This preliminary venture will provide valuable experience of the merits or demerits of the service.

Cancer unit closure

From Mrs Christine Welbourn
Sir, I refer to Dr P. L. C. Xavier's letter (December 22) commenting on the proposed closure of the Southend cancer unit and the opening of a new one at Harold Wood. Dr Xavier believes that the proposed unit at Harold Wood has almost unparalleled road and rail communications. That may be the case into central London, but for some residents of south-east Essex, the journey to Harold Wood can take well over four hours.

When I did it by bus and train it took almost 3½ hours (and I'm young and fit). I was able to have my radiotherapy treatment at Southend and stay with my young family, whose lives were not disrupted. Because of this I undertook my treatment in a relaxed frame of mind and, more importantly, I coped much better with the stress of learning that I had cancer, and the treatment itself, because I had the loving support of family and friends around me. Being offered a hospital or hostel bed at Harold Wood is no substitute for this. Yours faithfully, CHRISTINE WELBOURN, 35 Clatterfield Gardens, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

From Dr D. L. Phillips and Dr C. W. L. Trask
Sir, We wish to reply to the North-East Thames regional general manager's statement in *The Times* (December 17) that the proposed closure of the cancer unit at Southend Hospital is not a cash-saving exercise.

The original mandate of the regional health authority was one both of rationalisation and to make more economic use of very expensive equipment. We quote from the "Terms of Reference" given to Messrs Cooper's & Lybrand Associates and stated by them in their "Review of Cancer Treatment Services", 1985-86:

In view of the substantial financial pressure on the region and the need to divert funds from ineffective treatment areas to those of proven benefit... a comprehensive review of cancer treatment services in the region was required.

It is because the regional health authority has lost its way during the last two years that the contemplated end result is a compromise and as such would be disastrous. If their proposals are accepted by the secretary of state, money will not be saved — in fact millions will be wasted and the patients of south-east Essex will receive a markedly inferior service.

Yours faithfully, D. L. PHILLIPS, C. W. L. TRASK, Southend Hospital, Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, December 17.

'Crockford's' preface

From Mr C. A. A. Kilmister

Sir, The Spectrum profile of the Archbishop of York (December 22) quotes Dr Habgood as saying that the Prayer Book Society makes more noise in defence of the Prayer Book and those deprived of it than is warranted.

Leaving aside Dr Bennett's remark in the preface, that Anglican liturgical tradition is fading as fast as the Cheshire Cat's smile, the sheer pastoral insensitivity of the bishops and clergy in pushing the Alternative Service Book to the exclusion of all else is breathtaking. The ASB for many is something to be endured rather than accepted.

As the person who proposed the resolution bringing the Prayer Book Society into existence in the 1970s, may I assure you that I

wish the society did not need to exist. However, thanks to a coup d'état rooted in the "swinging" sixties, the liturgical modernists are increasingly intolerant and, so long as the man in the pew is deprived of his liturgical birthright, the society will speak up for him, and noisily if needs be.

Yours faithfully, C. A. A. KILMISTER (Deputy Chairman, The Prayer Book Society), 40 Great Smith Street, SW1, December 23.

From the Dean of Merton College

Sir, Dr Habgood (December 18) says he did not call the whole Crockford's preface "scurrilous", but only its "accusations of conspiracy and lack of integrity against the Archbishop of Canterbury". It is a pity he has to this extent been misquoted. But is he himself quite fair to the preface?

Where does it make these exaggerated accusations? Where does it use "such language as only an acre" slopes down to a river with water meadows beyond. Recently, standing on the lawn on a warm sunny day, I counted the following:

Eight cormorants sharing the ash tree which overlooks the river with five crows; 25 mallard ducks with five shelducks; four tufted ducks; six swans; 15 coots; six moorhens; a solitary heron, and several hundred common terns, with which were about a dozen black terns.

As I was counting the above a jack-snipe, a very rare visitor, flew in and commenced to feed on the lawn.

I wonder if any of your readers with small gardens have so much wild bird life in winter.

Yours faithfully, G. H. OSBORN, Cherry Tree Cottage, Merley Ways, Wimborne, Dorset, December 16.

New rail hazard

From the Marchioness of Anglesey

Sir, Most people hope that inter-city travel on British Rail will give them a chance to read, sleep or relax. In the past, fellow travellers sometimes made this impossible by playing loud music on powerful transistors. This was regarded as anti-social and the guard intervened.

Now, on first-class travel, there is a new hazard: telephoning executives shouting across whole carriages, one side of their current business negotiations. Please can we be spared this intrusion too. Yours truly, SHIRLEY ANGLESEY, Plas Newydd, Llanfairpwll, Isle of Anglesey, December 20.

... and a partridge?

From Mr G. H. Osborn

Sir, My garden (three quarters of an acre) slopes down to a river with water meadows beyond. Recently, standing on the lawn on a warm sunny day, I counted the following:

Eight cormorants sharing the ash tree which overlooks the river with five crows; 25 mallard ducks with five shelducks; four tufted ducks; six swans; 15 coots; six moorhens; a solitary heron, and several hundred common terns, with which were about a dozen black terns.

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I wonder if any of your readers with small gardens have so much wild bird life in winter.

Yours faithfully, G. H. OSBORN, Cherry Tree Cottage, Merley Ways, Wimborne, Dorset, December 16.

THE ARTS

Conduct unbeframing?



BEHIND THE FACADE

William Walton's only full-length opera was *Troilus and Cressida*, dedicated to his wife Susana. In the third and final extract from the forthcoming biography of her late husband, Lady Walton tells of his

lack of control over the work's troubled first performances, his tussles with Walter Legge and her own with Malcolm Sargent

In September 1954 the manuscript of *Troilus and Cressida* was finished, dated and dedicated "To my wife". It had been a long struggle. William's natural affinity and love for singing were uppermost in his treatment of the story. In William's own words *Troilus* was "more a work of duty than pure inspiration. Part of the trouble was that I didn't know enough about the mechanics of opera writing to be able to say what I really wanted. Nor did I know enough about the theatre, or what might work theatrically."

"So I began to rely on Christopher Hassall [who wrote the text], because he had a lot of experience of performing these things for Ivor Novello; whatever one might think about them, they had given him practical experience."

"I was trying to write a romantic opera, Puccini-esque. I felt that opera should have tunes to sing. Unfortunately, I don't seem to have ever found the voices to sing in *Troilus* that I dreamt I would."

With the score of *Troilus* completed, William's troubles really began. William had wanted Elisabeth Schwarzkopf to sing the part of Cressida, and had written it with her voice in mind. She was a beautiful woman as well as a marvellous singer. Both of us admired her and Walter Legge for creating the Philharmonia Orchestra and Choir. William delighted in conducting them when recording his own music for EMI.

Elisabeth seemed to us to travel incessantly, singing here, there and everywhere. The music world tended to think that she was Walter's slave, her professional life relentlessly organized in an exhausting schedule. But Legge always maintained that it was Elisabeth who decided on her career, and that she was only happy when singing. Blonde and blue-eyed, she always looked superb on stage. She moved with grace and, though never thin, was tall enough

to look elegant. She made no pretension to taste and fashion, except in her passion for shoes.

In 1950, to William's dismay, Walter came to visit us on Icknham, and verbally tore the *Troilus* libretto to pieces. This happened when William was working on the difficult first act. He was devastated, and took weeks to recover and to be able to work again. William, however, stayed on good terms with Walter, because he respected his professional ability and because of Walter's absolute control over EMI recordings of classical music. Though friendly, the relationship was never easy.

William handled Walter with calm assurance, refusing to take offence. I well remember our dining with Walter the evening before William was to conduct *Belshazzar's Feast* in the Kingsway Hall for an EMI recording. Walter announced over dinner that he had engaged a young, well-trained, German conductor to do the sessions.

Seemingly William could not conduct his own work to Walter's satisfaction. He added that William's name would still appear on the records as if he had conducted. After a pause, William replied, "Well, in that case, there will be no recording." William conducted himself. Walter took his revenge by not paying him a fee.

Elisabeth was not allowed to sing *Cressida*. This hurt William deeply; after all, as he told Walter, he had taken five years to compose the work especially for her. The excuse was that her English was not good enough and her voice not suitable for the wide range that William required.

In retrospect, Walter may have been right, because when William recorded *Troilus* later – and in this recording she was allowed to sing the part of Cressida – the recording sessions had constantly to be interrupted to allow her voice to rest, as well as to check her English diction.



Sir William Walton (left) and Sir Malcolm Sargent at the final "nightmare" rehearsals in December 1954

As for William's ability as a conductor, even Walter remarked how impressed he was that William could bring in the orchestra again and again to redo the same passage without varying the tempo, thereby avoiding making the end result sound like patchwork. Eight years after *Troilus*, Elisabeth at long last premiered a work by William, the *Song for the Lord Mayor's Table*, commissioned by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. Christopher Hassall again chose the text. Elisabeth's English was no better then than it had always been.

Relieved though William was that Elisabeth Schwarzkopf was allowed to sing *Cressida* for the first recording, he felt her loss deeply at the first performance at Covent Garden. The rehearsals for that first performance were a nightmare. William discovered more than 238 errors in the orchestral parts.

William knew that the conductor

appointed for the premiere, Malcolm Sargent, had not learnt the score. He was rehearsing the first act without having the faintest notion of what the last two acts contained. The publishers had been instructed by him not to send the rest of the manuscript, as he was not yet ready for it. So William went to all the singers' rehearsals and conducted them himself.

Moreover, Malcolm complained to William that his musical script was illegible. He was too vain to wear spectacles and as a result could not see the score properly.

After rehearsals, I often drove Malcolm back to his flat near the Albert Hall. On the way I had to fend off the advances of this incorrigible womanizer – who insisted on fumbling under my skirt – by steering with one hand and determinedly but politely removing his hand when it went beyond my knee. I did not wish to appear rude, in case he behaved in an even more cavalier fashion towards William's opera.

The rehearsals at Covent Garden went so badly that William finally complained to David Webster, the general manager. Malcolm's choice of the Hungarian soprano Magda László to sing Cressida was acceptable, voice-wise, but ridiculous on account of the language problem. Having lost Elisabeth Schwarzkopf because her English was not perfect, we were now reduced to my coaching Magda László in English. She looked and sounded lovely, but no one could understand a single word she sang. The libretto was not given a chance of being heard.

William went through agonies throughout the weeks of rehearsals and when Malcolm eventually tried to alter the score, William said that enough was enough. David Webster, however, could not bring himself to ease Malcolm out and allow William to conduct himself.

By chance, Jascha Heifetz happened to be visiting London while the rehearsals were dragging on, and offered to help William by

attending a rehearsal and later agreed to come to supper with Malcolm. After dinner, the ladies left the dining-room. Soon after, Malcolm came out in tears, saying, "What have I done? What have I done to you?"

William told me later that Jascha, in his dry and direct way, had remarked, "I hear, Sir Malcolm, that you are planning a tour of America in the near future." Malcolm replied that he was looking forward to making new fans in America. "Well," Heifetz continued, fixing him with a steely glare, "unless you make the effort to learn the score of *Troilus* and *Cressida*, for it was plain to me today that you were sight-reading, I will make it my business to make your tour a perfect misery. I shall tell everybody who counts of your shameful and unprofessional behaviour towards this opera."

Alas, this shock treatment was to no avail. Malcolm seemed to prefer producing "rabbits out of hats", and would not learn the score. The singers were frantic; each time Sargent conducted, they said, he changed the tempo, so they never knew what to expect.

Covent Garden again employed Malcolm Sargent to conduct the revival of *Troilus* in the early Sixties. Again William implored David Webster not to do so. But David ignored William's advice, so as not to offend Malcolm, a friend from his early days in Liverpool.

Malcolm Sargent was one of William's oldest musical champions. He had conducted the first performance of *Belshazzar's Feast* in the town hall in Leeds, and later the premiere of William's cantata *In Honour of the City of London*. Despite the *Troilus* experience, he continued to conduct first performances. In September 1956, for instance, he conducted the *Johannesburg Festival Overture* in South Africa.

Malcolm was dark and handsome, and there was always a flurry of activity from the bevy of professional and private life. Malcolm had been distraught at the death of his daughter from polio at a very early age. This had somehow blighted his married life.

William thought that this was part of the reason why Malcolm encouraged the rumour that he was irresistible to ladies. He was also great fun to meet, as he always had a fund of amusing stories, and loved being the centre of attention at any gathering.

He was obsessed with royalty, and generally had either a cousin or a niece of the Queen, or at least a foreign monarch, at his dinner parties. The gossip was that he kept his hair dark by dyeing it and he appeared to wear a corset to keep his waist trim and firm. The carnation in his lapel was *de rigueur*.

William Walton: Behind the Facade is published by Oxford University Press on February 14 (£12.95).

TELEVISION

Light and glitter

Advertisers have a euphemism for the middle class and well educated – they call it "light TV watching". Of all the independent television companies, none has been so lightly watched by the ABC-1 community as ATV, whose history was recorded in *ATV: Song And Dance Story* (Channel 4).

This programme was designed to prepare us for a retrospective season of the programmes which Bernard Levin once damned as "an incessant cataract of drive". Charitable amnesia excluded most of ATV's lowliest achievements. Instead, the high points of the franchise had pride of place: *Crossroads*, *The Saint*, *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*, *Robin Hood*, *Edward VII* and *Jesus of Nazareth*.

There was a brief analysis of the appeal of tacky, pseudo-American glitz to the public of the Fifties, covered by the condescending monopoly of the BBC and presumed to be yearning for the Tiller Girls and Tom Jones.

With few further apologies the story became a series of anecdotes about ATV's chairman, Lord Grade, recalled by his nephew Michael as "the best deal-closer there is".

Grade the Younger told the story of the mid-Atlantic series *The Persuaders* for which Roger Moore and Tony Curtis were signed and each offered top billing. Lord Grade then left it to the producers to devise a title sequence which appeared to give pre-eminence to both.

Many of the great and good, the indifferent and the lowly in British TV appeared to remember Lord Grade as a super-hero of his time. Only John Borman seemed undazzled by the gloss. He recalled the enthusiastic and glibly simultaneous trying to stuff cigar in his mouth, a cheque for half a million dollars down his trousers and announcing that he did not want to see the finished film in case he did not like it and would therefore be unable to sell it.

"The public love it and it's the public that count," Lord Grade announced, to counter all criticism. The programme was content to accept his argument.

Celia Brayfield

West Coast Wagner Agony and sentiment

Tristan und Isolde Los Angeles Music Center

Almost incredibly, Los Angeles's new opera company has mounted a production of *Tristan und Isolde* which would do credit to any major opera company in the world.

The Los Angeles Music Center Opera (LAMCO) has that uniquely name because so many past efforts here had used up every other feasible name available. In the autumn of 1986, LAMCO's debut production, presented jointly with the Los Angeles Philharmonic as pit orchestra, adds Los Angeles to the list of the world's major opera centres.

The lion's share of credit must go to the company's English executive director Peter Hemmings, who came here from posts with the Australian Opera and the London Symphony Orchestra. San Francisco, 400 miles to the north, has long luxuriated as an opera centre, but under its incumbent director, Ter-

OPERA IN THE USA

ence A. McEwen – a confessed "canary fancier" – the San Francisco Opera has concentrated inordinately the flashiest available vocal stars.

LAMCO has hardly stinted with fine singers, but it has outdone San Francisco in hiring genuinely distinguished conductors, stage directors, and designers. In the case of *Tristan*, it splurged: Zubin Mehta conducted, Jonathan Miller directed, and David Hockney (a Yorkshire-born immigrant Angeleno) designed.

Jeanine Altmeyer appears as a beautiful, vocally regal Isolde. A native Angeleno and protégée of Lotte Lehmann and Marjorie Singher at the University of California in Santa Barbara, she can probably stand comparison with almost any Isolde available today. William Johns, who has sung major roles with leading European and American companies, matches her well as Tristan.

If occasionally Peter Hemmings's imperial attitude towards some of his colleagues here has not transpired without friction and resentment, he has, to his credit, taken a far more responsible, nurturing attitude towards American (particularly Californian) artists than do most of his American-born colleagues.

David Hockney almost steals the show. In fact, at the performance reviewed, the unveiling of his Act 3 set so electrified the audience that it broke into applause; to the vast annoyance of Mehta, who stopped the orchestra for several long, fulminating seconds before starting the music a second time.

At Hockney's insistence, LAMCO has availed itself of Vari-Lite, an automated lighting system. Developed for rock concerts, it claims – justifiably – to allow a multiplicity of palette, a freedom of control, a degree of precision, and an instantaneousness of response never before achieved.

Vari-Lite does provide ravishingly beautiful visual effects, but it also has one apparently insurmountable disadvantage: the sound of the fans, necessary to cool the lenses, which apparently nothing in the world can totally muffle. In moments of silence, or even pianissimo, that deplorable susurrus from the stage left me amazed that Zubin Mehta had capitulated to competing with it.

Miller, for his part, has underdirected – at times almost glaringly. Act 2's love duet contains music so voluptuous it stops barely short of onomatopoeic pelvic thrusts, but the two lovers, professing in total thrill to their reciprocal passion, recline here rather like two guests at a Roman banquet, face the audience, and carry on a sort of discourse about the intricacy of their emotions.

Florence Quivar, a black mezzo-soprano from Philadelphia, brings a ravishingly rich voice and notably intelligent theatrical ability to the rôle of Brangäne. I can't recall ever hearing a better one, or even one so good. The same applies to Martti Talvela's King Mark. The remaining singers all measured up to them.

As a militant champion of surtitles, I sincerely wish I could say a good word for those used here. In fact they contained more incorrect grammar, spelling (the worst: "unmeasurable"), punctuation and outright mistranslation (for example, the verb *heissen*) than this entire allotted space could encompass. Regrettably, they primarily provided puerile ammunition for surtitles' detractors and opponents.

After this *Tristan*, the San Francisco Opera, for all its considerable seniority, will definitely have to look to its West Coast laurels.

Paul Moor

Richard Bemas will conduct the challenging one-act ballet *Parsifal* by the young British composer Colin Matthews for the Royal Ballet, opening on January 9, with further performances on January 12, 20, 22 and 26, at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

The Traveller Almeida

The composer protagonist of Jean-Claude Van Italie's play is working on an opera version of *King Lear* when he has a heart attack. During open heart surgery he suffers the complication of a stroke which robs him of the power of articulate speech.

What the play first presents, then, is an agony – though primarily an agony of the organism rather than, as in *Lear*, of the spirit. There is none of Lear's long, symphonic build-up to disaster, merely a brief, workman-like scene of the Traveller's (we do not hear his name until the last moment) heroic New York existence, on which the attack breaks with peremptory suddenness.

The expressionistic treatment of the operation and its immediate aftermath, ingeniously directed by Keith

THEATRE

Boak and admired by Jeremy Kingston in his notice of this production's first showing at the Leicester Haymarket, remains far and away the play's strongest point.

The doctors and nurses use stylized gesture and form quasi-religious tableaux (a crucifixion, a lamentation), to dislocate our sense of reality. Then a parade of black grotesques (a leprosy priest, a faceless deer-like whore, a sinister tramp with a ragged umbrella) like something from a Goya nightmare surround the hospital bed and usurp the patient's place.

It is a brilliant, chilling depiction of the strangeness of this "lightening in the brain" as seen from the inside, and David Threlfall's performance is utterly compelling. Strangeness implies not only terror; there is also, and this is

genuinely uplifting, the sense of an exhilarating re-birth, the return to a pristine estate before speech.

This brief agony is followed by the longer one of the struggle against dysphasia. It takes little imagination to realise that this could be more terrible, and Threlfall conveys both the frustration of disability and the will to conquer it with complete conviction; but the second half of the play sags dreadfully.

One problem is that Van Italie's supporting characters, the loyal girlfriend, the unloving, resentful brother, are paper-thin (no criticism of the players, Morag Hood and Ben Roberts). Another is an outbreak of brie moralizing ("You haven't got a heart problem [Geddit? any more?]) which submerges the agony in sentimental syrup.

The show continues at the Almeida until January 9.

Harry Eyres

Skin deep beauty show

Black Heroes in the Hall of Fame Astoria

London's black community must be in a seriously demoralized condition if they need the reassurance of this simple-minded pageant by Fity Fraser and J.D. Douglas.

Described as a "musical in seven acts", it consists of a roll-call of notable black men and women from Queen Njingah to Steve Biko, working its way relentlessly through successive line-ups of rulers, freedom fighters, international heroes, athletes and entertainers.

Mr Fraser's production combines the qualities of a school prize-giving and a beauty contest. Portentous chords blare from the mighty amplifiers; the narrator introduces Queen Amintae "as one of the women of vision and a fearless warrior" and he

shimmies Edith Masamba baring her nostrils and waving a cardboard scimitar. Then it is the turn of Hannibal: "a fearless leader and able administrator", and on boards a Benin figure in leopard skins, energetically polishing off an invisible opponent. It would be no surprise if the narrator started interviewing them about their hobbies and their hopes of a career in the movies.

After each group have been presented and done their stuff with a song or dance routine, there is a prolonged blackout and the whole thing starts again with another group.

There are some variations in the formula. A be-modelled Haile Selassie turns up and inspects the other kings before smartly marching them off. There is a full-throated appeal for the release of Nelson Mandela after which we see him (in the person of Prince Lincoln Thompson) baring his prison scars and launching into a song of his own com-

position called "No Nonsense Business".

It is interesting to see Franklin D. Roosevelt and Bishop Tutu in the international category. And towards the end of the first half the heroes are finally allowed to speak for themselves with Angela Davis rubbishing the male contribution to racial equality, and Malcolm X (James Fraser) knocking spots off Martin Luther King.

It is a relief to find that, even in the hall of fame, not all heroes are heroes to each other.

Irving Wardle

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William Johns (Tristan) and Jeanine Altmeyer (Isolde)



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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Current affairs or currant buns?

Can a television programme for women about women presented by women really entertain women? Jennifer Selway wonders what it is that producers think watching women want

"Mrs Thatcher turned us down. We invited her to be interviewed on the Government's social policy," Marion Bowman says. She is the editor of the new television current affairs series, *Woman In View*, which begins on Channel 4 next week.

Following Mrs Thatcher's "regrets", the new programme will begin soberly enough with an investigation into the Nuclear Electricity Information Group's advertising campaign, which is aimed at women, a subject already covered by Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*.

Woman In View is briefed to find the woman's angle. It was commissioned because Channel 4 believe that "women's issues are not given sufficient attention by the media". An underlying assumption is that many women are not attracted to existing current affairs programmes.

Is all or any of this true? Where are the little women who think that *Panorama* is all men's talk? How can anyone believe that the media ignores women's issues when the news stands are stuffed with women's magazines? What are "women's issues" anyway? Isn't *Woman In View* going to be just a little bit passé?

"Not at all," Bowman says. "I've been a news reporter for 15 years and it's still an uphill struggle getting anything about women on air unless it's to do with health. Social, economic and financial issues are almost impossible."

It is certainly true that women have fared better in print and on the radio. During the last decade, most newspapers have had to write about their own coverage of whether or not there is still a place for the "women's page".



Women to watch: Marion Bowman (left) and Lynn Ferguson in the editing suite of Scarlet TV, the independent company which makes *Woman In View*

And most have found that there is. Women's magazines survived the sterner feminist years of the late 1970s and are now thriving in a kinder climate which no longer regards the knitting pattern as an oppressor's tool.

"They are being true to themselves again," Jane Reed says. A former editor of *Woman's Own* and *Woman*, now the managing editor of *Today*, she is also a consultant on *Woman In View*.

Over on Radio 4, *Woman's Hour* goes from strength to strength — a finely-balanced hour of broadcasting that can switch from current affairs to current buns with seamless grace.

It seems that television is really the only medium that has had difficulty in giving women their own voice in prime time.

Channel 4's commitment to women's current affairs programming goes back to its inception,

and began with two programmes, *Broadside* and *Twenty-Two Vision*, which were both produced by all-women production teams.

The next women's series to be commissioned was the lightweight *Watch the Women*, a magazine programme produced by Carol Sarler, a former editor of *Honey*, which received a critical thumbs down at its launch in July 1985. It was awful. *Watch the Women* made strong women flinch and was simply too embarrassing to view in mixed company. But, according to Channel 4, it also received an enormous volume of mail during its 10-week run, which suggests that the interest in such a show was considerable — even if they did, as Sarler admits, "make an enormous number of mistakes".

"We were trying to be all things to all women," she says. "When we were serious we were accused of being rabid feminists. When we were light-hearted we were accused of not taking women seriously."

Finding the right tone is "the most important thing", Bowman believes. Scarlet TV, the independent company which makes *Woman In View* was set up by three women with a background in serious news journalism. Bowman was a reporter on Channel 4's *A Week In Politics* and *Twenty-Two Vision*. Sarah Hargreaves has worked on *The Business*

'Women appreciate reporters who are not too proud to ask the most basic questions'

of being rabid feminists. When we were light-hearted we were accused of not taking women seriously."

Reed, the consultant, is "the oracle" according to Bowman, with her extensive knowledge of what Reed herself describes as "the well-worn truth of women's journalism".

"Women are very practical," she says. "And they appreciate reporters and writers who are not too proud to ask the most basic questions."

Programme and *Twenty-Two Vision*. And Lynn Ferguson was a researcher at London Weekend Television. The associate editor is Liz Howells, who is the head of news and current affairs at Border Television. One of her functions is to provide the series with a North-South balance. All too often, the independent television companies have a built-in South-east bias.

Reed, the consultant, is "the oracle" according to Bowman, with her extensive knowledge of what Reed herself describes as "the well-worn truth of women's journalism".

"Women are very practical," she says. "And they appreciate reporters and writers who are not too proud to ask the most basic questions."

Five or 10 years ago, the tone of a women's current affairs programme would have been left wing. But that is no longer the

case. At the moment, many of the most interesting women in British politics are in the Conservative party. The makers of *Woman In View* also stress the diversity of women. Gone are the days when we were all sisters.

"Relatively wealthy women in the South-east are not going to have much in common with women in the north of England," Bowman says. "But what we believe they do have in common is curiosity about how the other lives."

Yet even if *Woman In View* gets the tone right, they still have the image factor to contend with. Nothing is truer than the Victoria Wood sketch where one woman turns to another and says: "Did you see the news last night?" and the other retorts: "Yes, nasty blousie."

Women study each other with obsessive interest. How often has

my attention wandered from Sue Lawley's impeccable newreading to admire her earrings?

Anna Raeburn has had a show on Capital Radio for 14 years. She has had lunch with innumerable producers and television companies with a view to presenting a live, current affairs discussion programme. But she has had no luck. She believes that this is because of a male reluctance to hand over a show to a woman who has short hair, wears glasses and still "looks damn good on camera".

"On radio, no one cares what you look like or what you wear," Raeburn says. "Women are crippled by 'image'."

'When we were light-hearted, we were accused of not taking women seriously'

at the best of times, and television is particularly tense-making. You can put a powerful, articulate woman in front of a camera and she turns into a squat little bundle in a Tricel frock."

In order to minimize formality (and cost) *Woman In View* will be presented from a room at the Scarlet TV offices. Bowman agrees that conventional television studios are intimidating. "It means that the quality of contribution can only be good if you are talking to practised communicators."

One of the advantages of being a small, independent company is that it does not have the paraphernalia of heavily manned (and expensive) studios.

Scarlet TV may manage to calm flustered contributors. It may strike an ideologically "correct" — yet entertaining — tone. It may even get the chance to make another series and find enough money to go ahead.

But the suspicion remains that in a perfect world there would be no place for its programme. Scarier regards women's programmes as an interim measure — to be adopted before the world wakes up. A cynic might regard this sort of programme as creating a gap in the market — and then filling it.

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Woman In View will begin on Channel 4 on January 6 at 9.30pm
 The Media Year page 23

Dear, dangerous diary...

Cecily Cardew in *The Importance of Being Earnest* said that she kept a diary "in order to enter the wonderful secrets of my life". But this popular idea of the diary, as best friend, confessional, and jolly toy box of the unconscious, has taken a bit of a bashing lately. Terence Last, the football thug jailed for 10 years recently, was reported in a Sunday newspaper as having kept a diary in which he recorded the people he had beaten up and the "bovver" he intended to cause at future football matches.

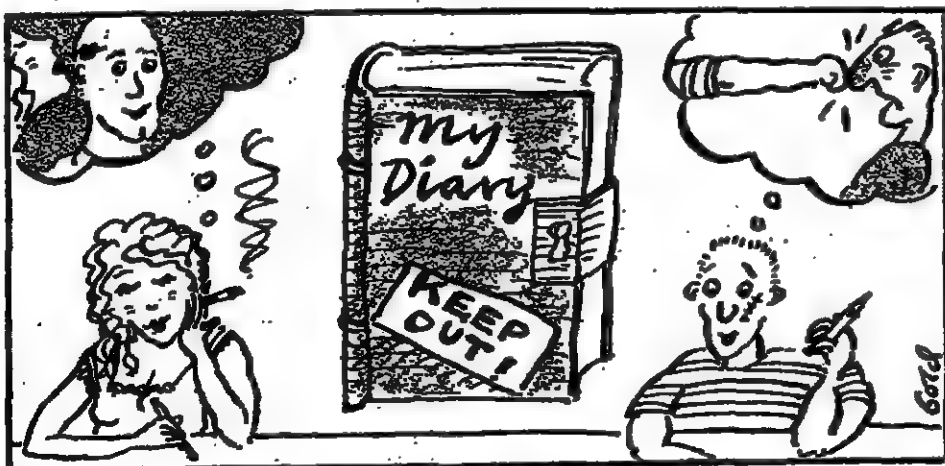
The use of diaries to record the less than wonderful is nothing new. "Some of the greatest sinners who ever walked the earth," wrote Charles Dickens in *Nicholas Nickleby*, "will gravely jot down in diaries the events of every day and keep a regular debtor and creditor account with Heaven, which shall always show a floating balance in their favour."

It seems that the chance to confess, and to be absolved by the sweep of the pen, is irresistible to many people.

Thomas Mallon, the author of *A Book of One's Own*, has spent many years reading thousands of diaries in an attempt to understand more about the phenomenon. He is convinced of three things: that diary writing is the poor man's art — "writing books is too good an idea to be left to authors"; that almost no one has had an easy life; and that no one keeps a diary just for himself.

The last point in many ways is the most intriguing. For all

Adolescents do it, politicians do it, even football thugs do it — but why, if they are meant to be so private, do so many diaries end up as very profitable and very public property?



their padlocks and secret hiding places, many diaries clearly long to be "discovered" by their grandchildren or by their faithless lovers; or if they are famous or notorious, by publishers with fat cheeks.

Diary writing, if you get it right, can be lucrative. Making Adrian Mole's adolescent penpals into a diary did it for Sue Townsend and the diaries of celebrated sinners, like Richard Nixon, have attracted a mass following.

The very word diary, with its promise of guilty secrets to be revealed, attracts the reading public like catnip, from the posh end of the literary market, where the complete set of Samuel Pepys's diaries (no

snip at £180 for 11 volumes) is a continuing best seller, right down to the tabloid Press.

When Suzanne van der Dreken, housekeeper to Dr Herman Tarnower, the American physician shot dead by his mistress, Jean Harris, conveniently remembered she had kept a detailed diary of his wrong-doings, she sold it to the *New York Post*, which came up with the headline: "Maid kept love diary of swinging doc."

For centuries the diary was the one respectable artistic form available to women. Novel writing was said to be wicked and morally weakening; diary writing, though, was

good training in appreciating the mundane aspects of life. This theory is, by and large, not as Mallon points out, the secret and often overlooked significance of diaries is that in them, "bright little girls realize a cultivated inner life can be a powerful and dangerous weapon."

To test this theory, imagine the havoc Nancy Reagan could cause if she published a juicy journal. Similarly, if Fawn Hall, former secretary to Oliver North, or Donna Rice, alleged consort of Gary Hart, would fill in the gaps in their diaries, they would have no need to worry about style — only about naming their price.

Julia Orange
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This week, like countless other seemingly law-abiding women throughout the country, I will commit a criminal act. I will open my purse and pay the nanny in cash. She is, in turn, though of comparatively tender years, will be a willing participant in the subterfuge. Together we will have conspired to defraud the tax man of his dues.

We have become part of the black economy. It is a twilight world — normally associated with back-street garages, bars and building sites rather than respectable domesticity. Yet millions of women are increasingly involved in it either as givers or receivers.

The reason is simple enough: we can't afford to do otherwise.

The wages of domestic staff are generally determined by what the women who employ them earn. As women's income is on average only 70 per cent of men's, domestic help is lowly paid — and understandably they want to keep every last penny.

That is the expedient explanation. But there is a principle here as well: why on

Nanny knows

FIRST PERSON

Anna Laurence

earth should the tax man expect to have two bites at the same amount of money? I pay my taxes and pay the nanny out of my net income. Were she then to pay taxes, that money in effect would have been taxed twice, an absurd state of affairs.

The core of the problem is of course the fact that nannies and other domestics are not tax deductible.

Perhaps while he is considering reforms to the taxation of married women, Nigel Lawson might also like to consider that within his own party there are women — among them Teresa Gorman, Emma Nicholson and Dame Joan Seccombe — who feel that if a secretary is tax deductible for a husband, it seems logical that a home help should similarly be tax deductible for a wife.

Working mothers are employers like any other and indeed the vast and growing army of mothers' helps, nannies, cleaners and ironing ladies, child-minders and baby-sitters is evidence that they are creating employment, much of it for young people, at a vital time.

Making the situation legal would bring enormous benefits, not just in terms of revenue to the Exchequer.

We could come out of the closet and stop feeling uneasy about what we do: personally I have no moral scruples about it, but I do not want to be caught. We could pay our employees more, with all that implies: standards, control, competition and a lessening of that sort of awful, unspoken indebtedness that many women feel because they can't

afford to pay very much. Nannies and other domestic workers for their part might not be financially a great deal better off if these improved wages were taxed, but they would be freed from the shadow of the black economy and, above all, the importance of the job would be formally recognized.

The implication at the moment is that such work is menial and unskilled and can be done by any good-hearted lass in return for a few bob at the end of the week.

Such condemnation applies too, I fear, to their employers. As a society we have yet to come to grips with the reality of the working mother: we have failed to acknowledge that such women, whatever the reasons for their working (economic necessity, career commitment or whatever), are serious about what they do. Is it because we still see working mothers somehow as amateurs that we are content to turn a blind eye to all those £10 notes changing hands and to muddle along with this insulting and grossly unfair tax anomaly?

TOMORROW

Health Page: Facing up to brave new frontiers? The impact of Russian space research on British medicine and the ethics of experimental brain surgery

Plans for the best

Yuletide canine or feline catastrophe can be expensive: vet's bills can mount up to an alarming £81.20 for a spaniel who chewed the Christmas tree lights, £115 for a Labrador's upset tummy after he made off with the entire turkey, or £37.50 for a tinsel-swallowing cat. One quick phone call to Pet Plan, the vet fee insurance company (Free-phone 0800 282 250) secures instant insurance cover from £6.50 per quarter to cover vet's bills up to £350, available with immediate effect, enabling pet-owners to sleep a little easier.

Help on the line
 This reflective time in the calendar can be particularly

painful for any woman who has lost a baby this year. The Miscarriage Association have a recorded message on their answering machine (0924 264579) during the holidays, which will re-direct callers to understanding local counsellors all whom have experienced the same loss. "I did find I'd get particularly weepy around this time and burst into tears in places like the supermarket, just because other women were filling their baskets with Family Size packs," explains one counsellor. She is a veteran of five miscarriages, whose story has at last had a happy ending — thanks to an immunization programme whereby women are injected with their husband's white blood cells to prevent miscarriage. The association has details of this treatment and can be contacted at 11 Bank Street, Ossett, West Yorkshire.

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information.

Quote me...



"I'm 32. After 50, you're allowed to be proud. My date of birth is in Who's Who and everyone always says 'Gosh, you're wearing well.' Joan Collins is too — but she seems to lose a year every time I look in the paper." Sheila Stought

Prized words

It is many women's secret fantasy to become a writer — not of *Levi-Strauss* blockbusters, but of children's stories, which are the fastest-growing section of the literary market. To spur you on in your New Year's resolution to sharpen that pencil or plug in the word-processor, the Academy of Children's Writers is offering £400 in cash prizes for stories under 1,000 words, which may appeal to children of any age — toddlers, teens or teenagers — and the best of which will be published in a booklet later this year. Would-be *Enid Blytons* have until January 31 and should contact the secretary at 6 Auckland View, High Ebbotley, Bishop Auckland, County Durham DL14 0JQ.

Fit as a flier

In America, they know how to make an air traveller feel good

— and look good. To take the whingeing out of waiting for a delayed plane or a transfer, Air Vita has been launched at Dallas/Fort Worth International airport. A distinct improvement on video arcades or cabs selling curried-up sandwiches, Air Vita is a fully-equipped health club facilities for the less energetic) which enables flyers to work out while they wait. Laudable — and one hopes, an idea which may be replicated on this side of the Atlantic — it will inevitably, however, provide a new twist on the scenario of a traveller whose plane is called unexpectedly leaving to down a double Martini in one gulp. The voyager who makes it to the gate moments before the flight closes with dripping hair, still dressed in shorts...

Josephine Fairley

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 5.00 **Cartoon** AIL 5.55 **Weather**.
7.00 **Breakfast** Time with Jerry
Farrar and Sally Jones. Includes
national and international news
at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30;
regional news and travel
reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15;
and weather at 7.25, 7.55
and 8.25.
8.30 **The Flintstones** (r). 8.55
Regional news and weather.
9.00 **News** and weather followed by
Neighbours (r).
9.30 **Children's BBC**, presented by
Simon Parfitt, beginning with a
Laurie and Hardy cartoon (r).
9.50 **Why Don't You...** redesign
your bedroom (r).
10.00 **News** and weather 10.05
Boys Cat (r). 10.30 **Play School**
presented by Sheila Gibby and
Nick Mercer.
10.55 **Rise to Eleven**. A reading by
Joanna Lumley (r). 11.00 **News**
and weather followed by **The
Littlest Hobo** (r). 11.25 **Charlie
Brown** (r). 11.50 **Cartoon**.
12.00 **News** and weather followed by
Monty Python's Flying Circus 1987.
This second of three
programmes features, among
others, **Whitney Houston**,
Level 42, **Bessie Boys** and **Living
in a Box** (r). 12.55 **Regional
news** and weather.
1.00 **One Crack News** with
Michael Buerk. Weather. 1.30
Neighbours. Zoo's career is
threatened.
1.50 **Film: Hamlet** (1964)
starring Oliver Reed as a prisoner-
of-war working in a local zoo.
When an air raid affords a chance
of escape he takes with him
his charge - an elephant - and
thus begins a series of comic
adventures. Directed by Michael
Winfrid. 2.30 **The Pink
Panther Show**. Three cartoons (r).
3.45 **Whiffle**. A pop duo in aid
of the Great Ormond Street
Hospital appeal. 3.50 **Space
Baby**. The story of a youngster
who slips his parents on a visit
to Cape Canaveral.
4.20 **Tales of the Mouse Hockey
League**. Cartoon.
4.45 **Film: A Ghost of a Chance**
(1967). A comedy made by the
Children's Film Foundation
about a group of children who join
forces with a house's resident
ghosts in order to save the
building from being knocked
down. With Jimmy Edwards,
Graham Stark and Patricia
Hayes. Directed by Jan Darnley.
5.35 **Reli** (r).
6.00 **St. O'Clock News** with Philip
Hayton and Debbie Throver.
6.35 **London Plus** includes Michael
Wale's alternative review of the
year's sport in the south-east.
7.00 **Wogan**. Terry Wogan
continues his celebration of radio
comedy with visits from,
among others, Bill Cotton, Hugh
Paddick, Beryl Reid and
Kenneth Williams.
7.45 **What a Carry On!** A
compilation of clips from the **Carry
On** series.
8.10 **Dallas**. Bobby and Cliff search
Texas for the missing Pam; and
J.R. welcomes an intriguing
lady from his past. (Ceefax)
8.50 **News O'Clock News** with Philip
Hayton and Debbie Throver.
9.30 **Great Ormond Street - A
Fighting Chance**. (Ceefax) (see
Choice)
10.45 **Film of the Year**. Barry
Norman picks his favourite films
from the some 200 he has
seen this year.
11.30 **Film: On the Waterfront** (1954,
b/w) starring Marlon Brando, Eve
Marie Saint and Karl Malden.
An eight Oscars-winning drama
set in New York's dock area
about an ex-boxer, his
involvement with a crooked
union boss and his eventual
rejection of his corrupt way of
life. With Lee J. Cobb and Rod
Taylor. Directed by Elia
Kazan.
1.15 **Weather**.

BBC2

- 9.00 **Cartoon**.
12.00 **Film: Hamlet** and **Hamlet**
(1964) starring Oliver Reed. The
story of a prince searching for his
elderly mother after they are
separated at New York Airport.
Directed by Roy Watts.
1.25 **100 Great Sporting Moments**.
The 1977 Grand National (r). 1.40
World Cup Rugby Special.
Highlights of France v Australia.
2.55 **News** and weather followed by
Showcase 87. The BBC's new
Radio Times Awards for
Amateur Film and Video Makers.
3.25 **News** and weather.
3.45 **Film: The Gay Divorcee** (1934,
b/w) starring Fred Astaire and
Ginger Rogers. Mini rejects
Guy's advances because she
thinks him a wastrel. Music
and lyrics by Cole Porter and
directed by Mark Sandrich.
5.30 **Jack High**. The second
semi-final of the Gateway Masters
Bowls Tournament.
6.00 **Film: Little Lord Fauntleroy**
(1980) starring Aislinn McGuinness. A
made-for-television version of
Frances Hodgson Burnett's story
of a young American boy who
inherits an English title and a

- fortune. Directed by Jack Gold.
(Ceefax)
7.40 **National Concert**. Tanzi's
Trouble (r).
8.10 **Enfant et les sortilèges**. The
second of two Ravel operas in
new productions from the
Glyndebourne Festival Opera.
(Simultaneous broadcast with
Radio 3 in stereo).
9.00 **Film: The Killing Fields** (1984)
starring Sam Waterston and Haing
S. Ngor. Award winning drama,
set in Cambodia in 1975, about a
American journalist and his
guide who are in Phnom Penh
when the Khmer Rouge armies
enter the city. Directed by Roland
Joffé. (Ceefax)
11.15 **Beethoven Piano Sonatas**.
Daniel Barenboim plays Sonata
No 11, Op 22.
11.45 **Film: Marie Walewska** (1938,
b/w) starring Greta Garbo and
Charles Boyer. Polish
nobilityman appeal to Countess
Walewska to meet favourably
to Napoleon's advances in order
to help them in their fight with the
Cossacks. Directed by Clarence
Brown. 1.35 **Weather**.

ITV/LONDON

- 8.00 **TV-News** includes cartoons and
other family entertainment and, at
7.00 and 8.00, **Good Morning
Britain** presented by Anne
Diamond.
8.25 **Thames news headlines**.
9.30 **Thames** the Tank Engine and
Friends (r). 9.55 **Crash a Grape**.
Su Francis and friends have a
Christmas party 10.10 **Andrew
O'Connor's Joke Machine**.
10.35 **Thames news headlines** 10.50
Santa (r).
11.00 **International University**
Challenge presented by Peter
Smeaton and Barbara
Gosnell. The second of a three-
leg challenge between the
United Kingdom champions, Keele
College, Oxford, and the
champions of New Zealand, the
University of Otago 11.25
Thames news headlines.
11.30 **The Christmas Tree Train**. An
animal tale of a young bear and
a young fox who are sent with
themselves on a train loaded with
Christmas trees (r). 12.00 **The
Sullivans**. Drama serial about an
Australian family during the
1940s.
12.30 **News** 12.55 **Thames news**.
1.00 **A Country Practice**. Medical
drama serial set in a remote
Australian town 1.55
Cartoon.
2.05 **Film: The Magnificent Seven**
Magnum of Santa Rosa (1977)
starring Michael York, Charles
Blancaud and Jane Cornall.
Comedy about a research
scientist working in a large
organization who develops a
powerful magnetic field which could
revolutionize the construction
industry and solve the world's
energy problems. Directed by
Hy Averback. 3.00 **Thames news**
headlines 3.55 **Boys and
Daughters**. Australian family
drama serial.
4.00 **Walt Disney Presents**.
Mickey's Moving Day 4.15 **The
Magician** of David Copperfield.
The magician performs in China
(r).
5.15 **Blockbusters**. General
knowledge quiz game for
teenagers, presented by Bob
Holmes.
5.45 **News** 6.00 **Thames news**.
6.35 **Crossroads**.
7.00 **Headliners** presented by Derek
Jackson. Nigel Dempster and
Philippe de France interview
teams of celebrities in a test of
news that made the headlines
when the presenter was a Fleet
Street editor. The contestants are
Windsor Davies, Sebastian Cox,
Jilly Johnson and Gilly Coman.
7.30 **Coronation Street**. Jenny
Brookley reports good news from
the Continent. (Oracle)
8.00 **Film: Smokey and the Bandit 3**
(1983) starring Jackie Gleason
and Jerry Reed. The third in
the series of films in which the
happiest sheriff Buford T.
Justice vainly tries to apprehend a
hooch-running trucker, an
exploit that usually ends with a
collection of wrecked vehicles.
Directed by Dick Lowry. (Oracle)
8.35 **News** and weather followed by
Thames news headlines.
8.50 **The Mikado**. (See Choice)
12.10 **New Year's Honours**.
12.30 **Film: The Last Man**
(1976) starring Christopher Heston
and James Coburn. A half-
breed train robber escapes from
prison, killing two guards. He
goes in search of the now retired
sheriff who was responsible for
his imprisonment and the
death of his woman. Directed
by Andrew McLaglen.
2.00 **News** and weather followed by
Wogan in Cincinnati. Comedy.
3.00 **Film: Dracula** (1979) starring
Frank Langella and Laurence
Olivier. A well-known vampire
leaps from a beach sailing
vessel and begins to terrorize
the Yorkshire coastline. Directed
by John Badham.
5.00 **News** and weather followed by
On. On. On. On. On. On. On. On.
5.30 **CNN Headline News**. Ends at
6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.25 **Film: Road to Utopia** (1945,
b/w) starring Bing Crosby, Bob
Hope and Dorothy Lamour.
Comedy about two con-men and
the daughter of a millionaire who
died, who discovered a gold mine
in the Klondike. Directed by
Hal Walker.
11.00 **Challenger**. The Tennent's
Super National Soccer Hockey
Championships.
12.00 **Cricket: The Silk Cut
Challenge**. This second group
match is between Ian Botham,
Graham Gooch and Desmond
Llewellyn. 1.00 **Cycling 87: A Tale of Two
Tours**. Phil Liggett looks back at
the Tour de France and the
Tour of Britain.
2.00 **Documentary: The Throated
Wilderness**. Summer in the
National Park (r). (Oracle)
3.00 **The Life and Adventures of
Nicholas Nickleby**. Part two (r).
5.00 **Cartoon** 5.50 **A Dream
of Jeannie**. Vintage American
comedy series.
6.00 **Wynford**. The first of a three-
part autobiographical series by the
late Wynford Vaughan
Thomas, first shown in 1974.
7.00 **Channel 4 News**.
7.50 **Comment and Weather**.
8.00 **Every Window Tells a Story**.
Malcolm Miller examines the 12th
century glass in Canterbury
Cathedral (r).
8.30 **Salute to ATV**. Until 12.05, a
selection of top ATV productions
beginning with The Best of the
Comedy Machine starring Mary
Faldman and Spike Milligan.
9.00 **Edward the Seventh**. Episode
one of the award-winning series
starring Annette Crosbie and
Robert Hardy as Victoria and
Albert.
10.00 **Val Parnell's Sunday Night** at
the London Palladium with
Norman Wisdom, Bruce
Forayn and the Jack Parnell
Quartet.
11.00 **The Saint** starring Roger
Moore and Dawn Adams. The
super-cool Simon Templar
saves a deposed king from
assassination.
12.05 **Moye Angelou in Performance**
(r).
12.50 **This Unnamable Little
Broom**. A short combining
animation with live action.
Ends at 1.00.

Miracles and tragedies

TELEVISION
CHOICE

Should Mrs Thatcher tune in to Great Ormond Street - A Fighting Chance (BBC1, 9.30pm) expecting to get a blistering attack on the state of the National Health Service, she will be pleasantly surprised. Only after an hour into this 75-minute film is there a hint that all might not be financially well at Great Ormond Street with a passing reference to 30 beds being permanently empty because of staff shortages. But the point is not elaborated and the programme is almost over before a kidney specialist talks of overseas visitors being amazed at working conditions and one Belgian medic saying he has seen nothing like it outside Eastern Europe. The gravity of the £30 million appeal, which must succeed if the hospital is to survive into the 1990s, is anesthetized with snuffing shots of the Prince and Princess of Wales touring the wards. But despite the financial handicaps, the work goes on and the film follows the fate of half a dozen critically ill children for whom Great Ormond Street, and its unique brand of medical expertise, may be the last chance. It makes fictional representations, like the excellent *Casualty*, seem like cheap melodrama. The real thing is a lot less frenetic. What is less, particularly young lives, hanging by a thread, the reaction is more likely to be numbed fatalism than soap opera hysteria. There is boredom just as much as anxiety as parents spend hours, days and even weeks at the hospital wondering whether an operation is going to succeed. The consultants try to be detached and reassuring. The nurses feel failure as badly as anyone but try not to overact. "If a child dies we are all



At any hour, on any day, there are scenes like this at Great Ormond Street Hospital: A Fighting Chance, BBC1, 9.30pm

devastated", says one, while another admits to crying at the bedside. If there is a criticism of the film, it is that in interweaving the stories of several children, the narrative can get confused and you sometimes have to think hard to remember whether this is the kid with the lung infection or the one having a kidney removed. *Great Ormond Street - A Fighting Chance* records both miracles and tragedies, while stressing that there is nowhere else in the land where the job could be better done. Its reward would be an avalanche of contributions to that £30 million appeal.

Opera on television cannot ever quite capture the excitement of the live performance but it is a good second best for those unable to get to the theatre. *The Mikado* (ITV, 9.50pm) is just the thing to fill the gap between Christmas the New Year, an old Gilbert and Sullivan favourite given a bold new treatment by Jones-

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Killing the Christmas spirit

RADIO
CHOICE

Crime at Christmas, Radio 4's current drama season, is following the example set by Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* in casting a dark shadow over the festive scene. The therapeutic value of this collection of plays is probably considerable, if only because they warn that life (and, in the case of tonight's play, death) must go on despite the mince-pies and tinsel. Miss Pym Disappears, Radio 4, 7.45 is Elizabeth Croucher's skilful adaptation of the book by Josephine Tey, set in a post girls' college of physical education in which a rigid dedication to perfecting handstands and upward circling leaves no time to dwell on life's seamer side. And yet, as someone on the staff dully confides to visiting lecturer Miss Pym (Julia Foster), "sweating oneself into a coma doesn't destroy the emotions." And, indeed, scarcely have those words been uttered than there



Julia Foster in Crime at Christmas, R4, 7.45pm

But did headmistress's pet Miss Rouse (Susan Sheridan) jump? Or was she pushed?

Whatever the title of the programme may lead you to suppose, Christmas Time Blues (Radio 3, 12.30pm) is absolutely nothing to do with the point I was making in my opening homily because these blues are the Yuletide songs American blacks sang when they were still slaves, and after they were emancipated. Paul

Oliver, who presents this selection of records by singers such as Blind Lemon Jefferson and Jimmy McCracklin, establishes a common denominator in most of them - the sense of deprivation that results from loneliness. Unseasonably, there is sexual innuendo in one comic song about Santa Claus and the Christmas Tree.

Best of the rest on radio today: a Radio 2 repeat of a Radio 4 edition of that perverse anarchic panel game I'm Sorry I Haven't a Cue (10.00pm); a repeat of last Saturday's edition of Record Review (Radio 3, 2.40pm) in which the regular contributors to what is surely one of the jewels in the Radio crown take their pick of the 1987 crop of record releases; and the Glyndebourne production of Ravel's lyric fantasy *Enfant et les sortilèges* (Radio 3, 8.05pm) which you can also see as well as hear (though not in enjoyment enhancing stereo) on BBC2.

Peter Davalle



Annette Crosbie (as Victoria) and Robert Hardy (Prince Albert) in Edward the Seventh, Channel 4, 9.00pm

- BBC1** 5.30-6.00 **News**. 6.00-6.30 **Cartoon**. 6.30-7.00 **Reli**. 7.00-7.30 **News**. 7.30-8.00 **Cartoon**. 8.00-8.30 **News**. 8.30-9.00 **Cartoon**. 9.00-9.30 **News**. 9.30-10.00 **Cartoon**. 10.00-10.30 **News**. 10.30-11.00 **Cartoon**. 11.00-11.30 **News**. 11.30-12.00 **Cartoon**. 12.00-12.30 **News**. 12.30-1.00 **Cartoon**. 1.00-1.30 **News**. 1.30-2.00 **Cartoon**. 2.00-2.30 **News**. 2.30-3.00 **Cartoon**. 3.00-3.30 **News**. 3.30-4.00 **Cartoon**. 4.00-4.30 **News**. 4.30-5.00 **Cartoon**. 5.00-5.30 **News**. 5.30-6.00 **Cartoon**. 6.00-6.30 **News**. 6.30-7.00 **Cartoon**. 7.00-7.30 **News**. 7.30-8.00 **Cartoon**. 8.00-8.30 **News**. 8.30-9.00 **Cartoon**. 9.00-9.30 **News**. 9.30-10.00 **Cartoon**. 10.00-10.30 **News**. 10.30-11.00 **Cartoon**. 11.00-11.30 **News**. 11.30-12.00 **Cartoon**. 12.00-12.30 **News**. 12.30-1.00 **Cartoon**. 1.00-1.30 **News**. 1.30-2.00 **Cartoon**. 2.00-2.30 **News**. 2.30-3.00 **Cartoon**. 3.00-3.30 **News**. 3.30-4.00 **Cartoon**. 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Time marches on for the boy who will never grow up



1957: Lulu stars as Peter Pan in the revival of the Broadway musical version playing at London's Cambridge Theatre.



1904: Nina Boucicault starring in the first stage production of what became a perennial favourite.



1927: Actress Jean Forbes-Robertson strikes a pose.



1949: Margaret Lockwood "flies" into the room from a visit to Never-Never Land.



1954: Barbara Kelly jumping forward as the sprightly Peter Pan.

Rehearsing in 1904 for the first production of what was to become a perennial theatrical pleasure, actress Nina Boucicault asked: "What exactly is Peter Pan?" Was he human or sprite? (Lynda Mardin writes).

A succession of actresses — and audiences — ever since have asked themselves the same question about J.M. Barrie's fantasy character who refuses to grow up, preferring to fly among the stars and beguile the lost boys in Never-Never Land. One aspect of Peter Pan, however, is certain — he has been a tremendous benefactor to the

Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

Barrie bequeathed the royalties of his most famous work to the hospital — but although the capricious little character has never grown up, time inevitably has brought a change. Fifty years later (the copyright is to expire tomorrow) and the hospital, which recently launched a £30 million appeal, will lose valuable income. Barrie stipulated it should never be sold, although in half a century several millions of pounds have doubtless been received.

Appeals coordinator Robert Pike said last night: "From a financial point of

view, it could be a substantial loss. Intellectually, the hospital considers Peter Pan will always be ours."

The author always had strong links with the hospital; in 1929 he organized that year's cast with Jean Forbes-Robertson as Peter Pan to stage the nursery scenes on one of the wards. Productions nowadays generally make a point of visiting Great Ormond Street — "It's a very common thing to see a crocodile and ostriches wandering around," said Mr Pike.

The current production at London's Cambridge Theatre — the Broadway musical version created from the orig-

inal more than 30 years ago — intends to continue paying royalties beyond the copyright expiry date and during a subsequent visit to Scotland in February. It stars Lulu, playing the role for the third time in her career. George Cole provides a Captain Hook.

"It really is a magical part," said Lulu. All her predecessors, who include Gladys Cooper, Anna Neagle, Phyllis Calvert, Margaret Lockwood, Dorothy Tutin, Bonnie Langford and the RSC's break with gender-bending tradition, Miles Anderson, must surely have agreed with that.

De Savary wants an international Newquay airport

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The millionaire businessman, Mr Peter de Savary, is preparing a multi-million scheme to create an international airport at the RAF base of St Mawgan, near Newquay in Cornwall.

Civilian aircraft from Plymouth-based Brymon Airways already operate four flights a day into and out of the airfield using a small passenger terminal.

Mr de Savary believes that the huge runways, from which RAF Nimrods now fly on

regular searches for submarines in the Atlantic, could be used by large scheduled and passenger jets flying passengers to Cornwall from other parts of Britain and the Continent and taking local holidaymakers to the Continent and the United States.

He has already visited the airport, officially licensed in the name of Newquay, and is to put his plan informally to the Government in the new year.

The idea of a new large

airport in the south west has been urged for some months, especially by the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators who have formally proposed that the next big British airport is built within striking distance of Bristol.

They say this would avoid the congested air space over London and, because of the fast road and rail links between the south west and the London area, could prove a valuable alternative to Heathrow and Gatwick.

Mr Charles Stuart, chairman of Brymon, said yesterday that he was interested in Mr de Savary's initiative and would give whatever professional help he could.

But others in the aviation world doubt whether the building of an expensive terminal and the creation of other facilities would attract passengers or airlines.

Mr de Savary has recently pumped millions of pounds into Cornwall through the acquisition of Falmouth Docks and Lands End. The airport scheme links with his plans to turn the area into an important tourist attraction.

A new airport at Newquay would have to compete with nearby airports such as Bristol, Exeter and Cardiff which have long struggled to attract airlines in large numbers.

Homosexuals and the Church 'Witch hunt' of clergy opposed

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Two more bishops have endorsed the policy of the Bishop of Ripon, the Rt Rev David Young, who has said he does not intend to ordain or appoint practising homosexual clergyman.

The two, the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Rev Peter Mumford, and the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Peter Norrish, both said his policy is that already generally adopted by bishops.

The Bishop of Truro said yesterday he was opposed to any "witch hunt" in the Church of England, but he

followed a policy very similar to that stated by the Bishop of Ripon. The Bishop of Norwich said he too did not ordain homosexuals unless they gave up their lifestyle.

The Bishop of Ripon's policy was that homosexual orientation was not a bar to ordination, but practising homosexuality would prevent a man being recommended for ministerial training, or, if he was already a clergyman, prevent him receiving a bishop's licence.

The Bishop of Truro said yesterday: "I agree with every-

thing David Young is doing". But he was not prepared to inquire into the personal habits of all his clergyman.

The bishop said persecution of homosexual clergy would amount to a "witch-hunt".

The Bishop of Norwich said: "There is nothing new in this. Most of us have been following this policy for years."

A group set up at the request of the House of Bishops is preparing a report on homosexuality in the church, for full consideration late next year.

Owen rally sparks new SDP turmoil

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The Social Democratic Party was last night heading for renewed turmoil over plans by supporters of Dr David Owen to use its merger conference as a platform for boosting his separatist party.

The Campaign for Social Democracy, the Owenite body poised to revive the SDP after the merger with the Liberals, disclosed yesterday that it is planning to hold a key meeting at the conference in Sheffield next month.

Although the campaign group denied it was planning a recruiting rally, news of the gathering brought bitter condemnation from the SDP's pro-merger camp.

Mr Ian Wigglesworth, a

National Committee member and former SDP MP, predicted angry scenes if the meeting went ahead.

"It is clearly a provocative move," he said. "What I assume this rally is really intended to do is to recruit members for Dr Owen's new party. That is a fairly provocative thing to do at another party's conference."

"It is a grossly dishonest move on the part of Dr Owen and the Campaign for Social Democracy. They are seeking to recruit as many members of the SDP as they can through the subterfuge of giving the impression they are the majority when they are not."

"It will be a fairly stormy

meeting. People are becoming increasingly infuriated by Dr Owen's attempt to hijack the majority from a minority position."

Mr John Cartwright, SDP MP for Woolwich, Dr Owen's Commons spokesman, said the aim of the meeting would be to "cajole anti-merger supporters about the possibility of re-establishing the SDP under the same name, as a separate political force once the merger with the Liberals had been approved."

With the battle for the SDP's future now approaching a climax, Mr Cartwright made clear that his group's central strategy was to convince as many potential recruits as possible

that a merger did not mean the demise of the SDP.

"What we have to demonstrate is that we are here, we exist, we are a viable entity and not an Owenite rump heading for the wilderness,"

Mr Cartwright said the meeting would be open to declared opponents of a merger and those "wanting to see what a re-established SDP will look like".

Dr Owen is likely to address the full conference early on Saturday, making plain that he and his followers have no intention of seeking to block a merger. He will advise his supporters not to vote on the issue that have been thrashed out between the SDP and the Liberals.

Russian endures 326 days in orbit

Continued from page 1

Aliev, and their two sons, who flew to Kazakhstan to meet him. The families of Mr Alexandrov and Mr Levchenko were also at the Baikonur cosmodrome.

All three cosmonauts were "feeling fine after the landing," Tass said.

Commander Romanenko will spend the next two to three weeks readapting to Earth conditions and gravity at Baikonur after more than 10 months of weightlessness.

But Soviet scientists are confident that he will not have lasting after-effects from the flight, as he has been under constant medical supervision throughout his stay in orbit.

The record-breaking cosmonaut has lost less than 1 per cent of muscle fibre, and about 3 lb in weight in space. A medical officer responsible for the flight, Dr Oleg Anashkin, attributed the insignificant

loss to Commander Romanenko's professionalism — he "ran" about 600 miles to prevent his muscles atrophying while in orbit.

His experience will provide vital data for the feasibility of a manned flight to Mars, a journey which takes up to three years and is planned for early next century.

Commander Romanenko broke the previous endurance record, also held by the Soviet Union, of 237 days in orbit.

Flight-engineer Alexandrov, who has himself spent 160 days in space after replacing Mr Aleksandr Leveikin who was brought back to Earth with heart problems, will also undergo Earth re-adaptation before being allowed to rest.

Mr Levchenko, who only spent a few days on the Mir with a new crew, will soon find himself behind the controls of a plane, according to Pravda.

Ramsden's racing sale

Continued from page 1

His problems surfaced at Billericay Magistrates Court, Essex, in June when he was committed for trial on the VAT charges. He will appear at Southwark Crown Court in the New Year.

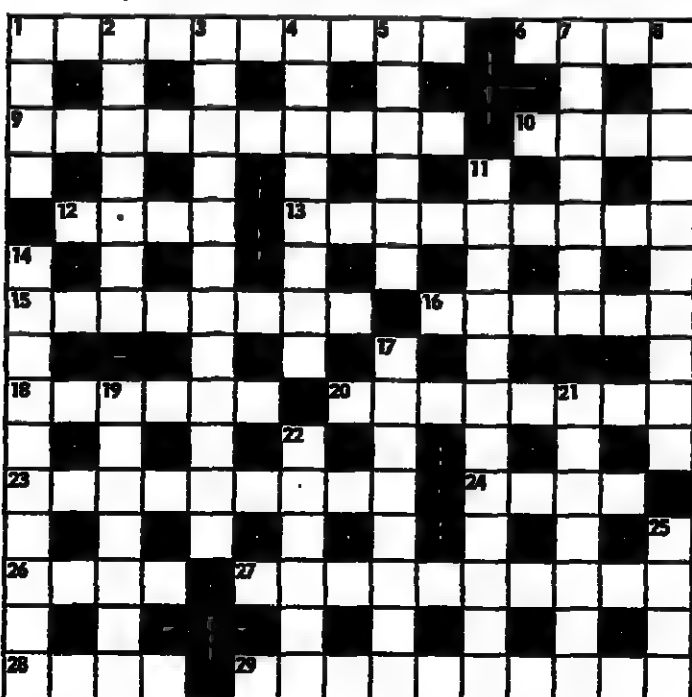
In July he raised £27 million by selling his shares in the Bestwood company and in Marler Estates, which own the Chelsea and Fulham football grounds.

In August he settled his

betting debts after appearing before the Tattersalls committee and, in October, he announced both the sale of his 74 per cent stake in Whitchurch Holdings and his withdrawal from racing sponsorship. This year he has provided £180,000 for races at Ascot, Epsom, Newmarket and Sandown.

But Mr Ramsden is sticking with soccer. He remains chairman and owner of Walsall, currently third in the Third Division.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,552



ACROSS

- 1 Might train crash? Without a doubt (3,7).
- 6 Go and sing (4).
- 9 It's not the real game (4,6).
- 10 Not, so to speak, the back line (4).
- 12 With people around, I look (4).
- 13 Foreign character has some scope — not a lot (9).
- 15 Applying to the wrong purpose lost uranium that's concealed (8).
- 16 Opposed to a bit of the Bible (6).
- 18 Game's ending rejected by inventor (6).
- 20 Double feature evokes cheers (4-4).
- 23 Watch put back (5,4).
- 24 Nine letters returned? Just one, from overseas (4).
- 26 2½" banana, ill-favoured in part (4).
- 27 Pickles fan gets roughed up by this weapon (5-5).
- 28 Look and sound like a king (4).

DOWN

- 2 The crafty French let a man on the pitch (6-4).
- 1 Fingered the material (4).
- 2 Hooligans stamp into banks (7).
- 3 Withdrawal finally in agreement over weapons (5,4,5).
- 4 Englishmen put up in temporary accommodation, an apartment (8).
- 5 Hard water? It depends (6).
- 7 Use this in a game, we hear, and triumph (7).
- 8 Cheap sort of opera (10).
- 11 Old fogey not quite ready to transport fish (3,3,6).
- 14 Bureaucratic plan is more complicated (10).
- 17 Hungry? Here's tart and cake (5-3).
- 19 Picture shows one West End star holding a drink (7).
- 21 A heart I break, as a mistress (7).
- 22 Sylphs very easily look thus, especially their faces (6).
- 25 Food for grouse (4).

WORD-WATCHING

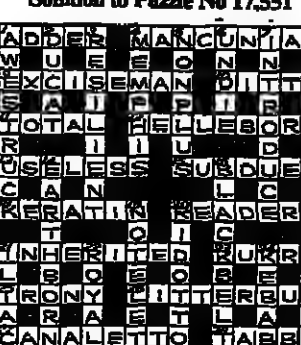
A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- ANADEM**
a. An analgesic
b. A wreath
c. A step in a syllabism
- POPULATION**
a. Expulsion on the skin
b. A kind of embroidery
c. Boozing
- DORAN**
a. A Macedonian kilt
b. A golden carp
c. A navigational device
- MINAUDERIE**
a. Filtration
b. Thematics
c. The tassel on a wimple

Solutions page 14, column 8

Solution to Puzzle No 17,551



Concise crossword, page 7

WEATHER

Apart from a few showers in the north of Scotland most places will start the day dry and fairly bright but, cloud and rain already in the south-west will spread quickly north-east to all areas bringing hill and coastal fog patches. The rain will be heavy at times in the north and west with somewhat clearer showery weather getting into Northern Ireland and western Scotland later. Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: continuing unsettled.

ABROAD

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; f, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder					
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
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Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41

AROUND BRITAIN

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; f, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder					
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
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Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41

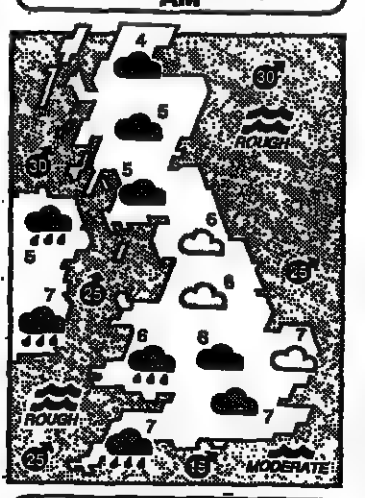
HIGH TIDES

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; f, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder					
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
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Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41

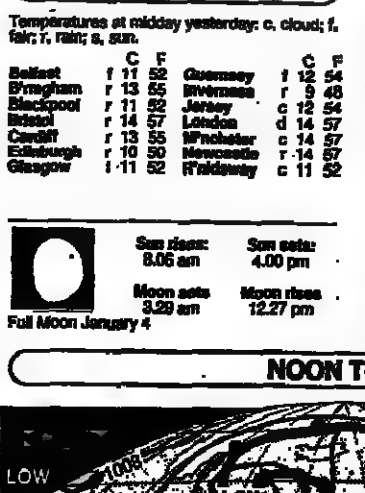
THE POUND

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; f, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder					
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41

AM



PM



YESTERDAY

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; f, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder					
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41

HIGHEST & LOWEST

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; f, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder					
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
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Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41

MANCHESTER

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; f, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder					
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41

LIGHTING-UP TIME

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; f, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder					
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
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Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41

NOON TODAY

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; f, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder					
Algeria	15	50	Madrid	5	41
Algeria					

TEMPUS

Wishing on five mining shares

make encouraging reading and, therefore, reflect on Ashton. While De Beers' shares (the most obvious choice in the world of diamond investments) have recently started to advance from depressed levels, Ashton Mining has been left behind.

The group holds 38.2 per cent of the Argyle diamond mine in Western Australia and recently expanded its gold mining interests by raising its stake in the Australian gold producer Carr Boyd from 21.9 per cent to 30 per cent.

Inspiration Resources (\$6,322p): Hardly the most appropriate name given its dreary earnings record, but at least Inspiration has a wealthy big brother in

Minorco (holding 57 per cent of the equity) which has just promised an \$80 million cash injection so that, together, they can hunt for, and develop, gold properties in North America.

Inspiration's low-cost heap-leach mining methods stand it in good stead as world copper prices move further away from production costs, and the group's determination to get into gold mining in a big way suggests a new spirit

The joint Minorco-Inspiration partnership aims to increase gold production from 65,000 ounces to 200,000 ounces by the early 1990s, and the shares are tightly held.

RTZ: (350p) Besides growing industrial interests, which for the past two years have dominated the profits table and quietly turned the profile of RTZ from a mining group into an industrial-led empire, there are several precious and base metal interests within

Early setback for Dow

Feedback for Dow

On Monday, the Dow average closed 56.70 points lower at 1,942.97.

● US Trust Company said that it had raised its broker loan rate to 8 1/4 per cent from 8 1/8 per cent, effective immediately. Bankers Trust Co., the only other bank which displays its broker loan rate publicly, has an 8 per cent rate.

● Washington. — A shareholder group led by Mr Don-

ald Trump, a New York real estate developer, said it had increased its stake in Alexander's Inc common stock to 1.06 million shares, or 21.4 per cent of the total outstanding, from a previous figure of about 20 per cent. It is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the group said its share between Alexander's bought November 9 and December 23 at \$36.25 to \$39.50 a share.

HONG KONG

ing rises 14 points

market sentiment and that local operators were looking for fresh direction from stock and foreign exchange markets in Europe and the US.

Brokers also said that share prices were ruled by short-term speculation in a thin market. Trading on second-line stocks was also active after the market showed it was able to hold firm. Lai min, a leading second-line, traded 10 cents higher at HK\$52.125. HK Realty "A" gained 25 cents to HK\$5, but

HK Macau Development lost 1.5 cents to 49.5 cents.

Among the bine chips, Cheung Kong rose 15 cents to HK\$66.85. Hutchison was up 20 to HK\$72.20 and Swire Pacific "A" rose 20 to HK\$15.20. HK Bank was 5 cents higher at HK\$7.30.

Hang Seng index futures gained more ground than stocks, December and January contracts were traded 35 points higher at 2,315 and 2,305 respectively. A total of 563 lots were traded.

SYDNEY

Shares end easier on profit-taking

(Reuter) — Share prices closed easier, but off their lows, in thin trading on profit-taking in industrial stocks and base metal mines, brokers said.

The selling was sparked off by the sharp overnight fall on Wall Street, due to concern about the US dollar and foreign investment.

At the close of trade, the All-Ordinaries index was down 10 points at 1,303.9 after earlier reaching a low of 1,299.0. Turnover was very

thin at just 69.0 million shares worth Aus\$93.5 million (\$36.24 million).

The biggest falls were in the media, transport and banking sectors. News Corporation, which climbed Aus\$30 last week, fell 80 cents to Aus\$11.40. TNT shed 17 cents to Aus\$3.88.

The only highlight in a quiet day was NZ Forest Products' proposed merger with Elders Resources. Elders closed 40 cents higher at Aus\$2.25. NZFP was steady at Aus\$2.80.

COMPANY NEWS

Payment raised

group's assets are held and

[illegible]

COMPANY NEWS

musle Lumpur. Petronas is paying a final dividend of 10 sen, making 15 sen (10 sen) for the first year to September 30. Pretax profit jumped to M\$91.83 million (22% increase), against M\$74.5 million a year earlier. After tax profit was M\$277.72 million (M\$218.8 million). Earnings per share were 14.5 sen (3.5 sen). The directors believe that if the current favourable commodity price continues to maintain the current year's results should be better.

Bryson Oil & Gas

In the six months to June 30 last, Bryson Oil & Gas turnover of Bryson Oil & Gas was more than doubled to £292.70 million (£108.53). The pretax profit was £11.35 million (£24.078) after adding in exceptional items of £14.8 million (nil). Earnings per share were 3.1p (nil). The board reports that the oil states present and are an impact on Bryson's operations in securities involving unrealized losses in the order of £995,000. There has also been a decrease in the value of the dollar,

weakening of oil prices. Notwithstanding, the directors view the future with confidence.

Pretax jump

In the half-year to September 30, Amalgamated Financial Investments' turnover slipped to 661.52 (£108.94). Profit on operations was £124 million (£309.64), while pretax profit climbed to £1.32 million (£298.65). Earnings per share were 7.79p (1.27p).

Hallwood sale

Hallwood Group Inc has sold Atlantic Metropolitan (UK), its principal British subsidiary, to the Granger Trust. The gross sale price, which excludes car tax, was about £40 million (£1.6 million) before liabilities. Hallwood's estimated gain on the sale is \$10 million.

Jarvis deal

J Jarvis & Sons has agreed to purchase Old Beroun Holdings, a property company owned jointly by Mr H Bard, the company's chairman, and his wife, Mrs R Bard, for £650,000.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
December 14	December 31	March 17	March 28

All options were taken out on: 28/12/87 Micro Business Systems, Rascal, Monarch Petroleum, Eagle Trust, Trimco, Ladbrokes, Bellhaven, British Airways, Loocho, Polly Bank, Astra Holdings.

Bryson Oil & Gas

The six months to June 30, 1970, saw a decline in the company's net worth from \$200 million to \$192.7 million (106.58%). The pretax profit for the period was \$1.35 million (\$24.07% of sales). The company's performance after adding in exceptional gains of \$1.2 million (24.07%) was \$2.6 million (50.14%) or 107.63% of sales. The company's per share was \$10.25 (\$2.05). The board reports that at the last share prices has increased. Bryson's shareholdings in the company are valued at \$95,000. There has also been a decline in the value of the dollar.

Hollywood sale

Jarvis deal
J Jarvis & Sons has agreed to purchase Old Borough Holdings, a property company owned jointly by Mr H Bard, the company's chairman, and his sister-in-law, Mrs R Bard, for £450,000.

Jarvis deal

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CANADIAN PRICES[illegible]

Gulf heads of state back Opec prices agreement

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

In a move probably as significant as any that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries could make, the Gulf states have called for an end to oil price discounting.

The Gulf Co-operation Council, meeting in Saudi Arabia over the past four days, has said that its six member states should stick to the Opec price and output accord reached in Vienna before Christmas.

Ironically, some Gulf oil producers have ignored Opec agreements to which they were a party, but it is unlikely that

they will ignore the strictures of the GCC which is composed of the six ruling heads of state.

It now remains for the world oil markets to interpret the move, with some traders saying yesterday that prices should firm in the new year.

Trading on the open markets is at present extremely light, but prices have edged back up towards \$16.75 for February delivery of North Sea Brent crude.

Another key element in the continued campaign to have Opec police its agreements

more effectively is the announcement by Indonesia that it will not be bound by the agreement if other countries break their output quotas.

Indonesia, through Dr Subroto, its oil minister, has played a crucial role in maintaining Opec solidarity. Dr Subroto worked throughout the Vienna meeting to persuade his fellow oil ministers to accept a compromise, but his country has clearly now run out of patience.

Indonesian oil and gas is readily available on the Japanese market and, if it were to

start discounting, then Arab producers would have to chase the price downwards.

Support for the Opec agreement came yesterday from Saudi Arabia which said it would not offer discounts.

Saudi Arabia has several sophisticated marketing arrangements which could offer its customers discounts without appearing to breach the Opec agreement, but a spokesman for the oil industry in Riyadh said yesterday: "We assume we will not be finding ourselves using such methods."

Takeover approach boost for Victor

By Lawrence Levy

Shares in Victor Products, the mining and industrial equipment group based on Tyneside, soared 45p to 190p yesterday after the company announced that it had received an approach which might lead to a takeover offer.

The identity of the suitor was not revealed although market speculation focused on Northern Engineering Industries, which has increased its stake in Victor over the past three months and now holds about 18.2 per cent.

A spokesman for NEI declined to say whether it had made the approach. He said that its stake in Victor is "a commercial holding." NEI itself has a sizeable presence in the mining equipment industry.

No formal takeover offer has yet been made for Victor. The announcement from Victor said merely that it had "received an approach concerning a possible offer for the whole of the share capital of the company."

It added that the company was discussing the approach with its financial advisers and "strongly advised" its shareholders to take no action. It would make an announcement "in due course."

It is likely that a takeover offer for Victor would require the backing of its two main shareholders. The company's own pension fund owns 25.9 per cent of its shares, while Derbyshire County Council has a 10.1 per cent stake.

In the year to April 30 1987, Victor's profits before tax fell to £734,000 compared with £1.34 million the previous year.

With its shares standing at 190p, the company has a market capitalization of just over £14.5 million.

Signs of the bear's arrival in Tokyo.

One wayward weekend in Tokyo has put the world's financial markets on edge and challenged what by Christmas had become conventional wisdom among investors round the world.

Strong equity market performance during December had encouraged the widespread assumption that strategies for 1988 should be conceived as planning for a post-crash market environment. The open question raised by the events of the past few days is whether or not the crash continues into the new year.

At least part of the answer lies in the East. For many caught on the hop by the events of the past few days, the chief element of surprise is that the whirlwind which struck Wall Street on Monday and swiftly crossed the Atlantic yesterday, began in Japan.

Until Christmas Eve, Tokyo had been a relative haven of stability in a storm-tossed world. Its equity market suffered far less of a fall than other leading financial centres.

And just before Christmas, there were a number of rosy forecasts by leading Japanese securities houses, which were confident about Japanese equity markets to a degree only just short of arrogance.

These were based on two arguments. First, the long-term superiority of the Japanese economy over those of its major competitors would provide an irresistible magnet drawing back into Tokyo the foreign cash which poured out in the days shortly after Black Monday.

Secondly, the weight of money argument. This has private Japanese citizens raising substantially the proportion of their assets invested in shares over the next few years and other underweight financial institutions doing likewise.

Fine. Except that the Nikkei Dow Jones slumped more than 1,000 points in a couple of days over Christmas. This is despite what outsiders see as a market which, if not rigged, is strongly underpinned by a collection of strong vested interests which feel more comfortable if shares keep on rising.

Over half Japanese trading is done through a handful of brokers, the bulk of the market is held by companies and investing institutions, some of which are obliged to deploy 70 per cent of their funds domestically.

There is no denying the economic arguments for investment in Japan. But the weight of money theories have proved notoriously seductive snares for the investor, whether in the Far East or elsewhere.

Money has an unpredictable habit of remaining money should its owners decide that risk investments have for the time being become too risky.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange is now

closed until after the protracted New Year celebrations in Japan. Until it re-opens, its behaviour at the weekend raises once again the possibility that a new leg of the bear market might be triggered by further falls in what Westerners like to see as the most overvalued market in the world.

The state telephone company NTT, for example, has seen its shares changing hands at prices which represent more than 250 times current year earnings.

Average price earnings ratios for the market this year have typically been in the range of 50 to 70, compared with the mid to low teens in London and even lower on Wall Street.

To many Western investors, the biggest surprise of the October crash was it was not led by a re-adjustment in Tokyo. A continuation of the Christmas turbulence in Tokyo would, in the present fragile state of confidence, have a domino effect round the world.

G7 makes amends

The Group of Seven may have made a hash of the pre-Christmas statement on economic co-operation, the shortcomings of which appear to have inspired the latest turmoil in financial markets. But its central bankers were busily making amends yesterday with some finely judged support.

The latest squalls in the dollar may have further to go. Doubts will not be answered until markets resume normal trading after the new year weekend. But so far, the central bankers appear to have done only enough to deter currency speculators.

The Bank of Japan, in the market twice, managed to hold the dollar comfortably clear of the ¥123 level which it briefly breached on Monday.

The Bundesbank timed its intervention well enough to steer dealers away from the idea of a sub-DM1.59 dollar. The Bank of England and according to anecdotal evidence, the Fed, also made their presences felt.

These well orchestrated appearances were essential yesterday partly as a gesture of assurance that G7 is still in business.

They were also necessary to make it clear that any concerted attempt to explore the limits of the dollar's new weakness could be punished heavily. Central banks will be reluctant to undertake the large scale intervention needed to mount a series full scale bear squeezes.

To be effective this action is very costly and has the added irritant of requiring further measures to avoid a boost to domestic money supply.

There appeared to be just enough of the iron fist visible inside the bankers' velvet gloves yesterday to make tough action unnecessary for now.

India told to devalue the rupee

New Delhi (Reuters) — India must lower the rupee against leading currencies and introduce sweeping measures to boost exports so as to avoid serious setbacks in economic growth and balance of payment problems, the World Bank said in a report.

The confidential report, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, said Indian export performance in the last decade had been unsatisfactory, with exports growing by less than 2 per cent in real terms and lagging behind overall world trade growth. It said: "A continuation of the past trend in overall exports would have serious adverse consequences for India's growth and concomitant income and employment prospects."

Recent exchange rate movements were welcome but India's competitors "have managed their exchange rates more aggressively".

Huge logjams feared on eve of EEC customs changes

By Colin Nairn

Customs and Excise fears that a large number of firms in the import and export business are still unprepared for the big change in customs procedures that comes into effect throughout the European Economic Community on Friday.

If so, Britain could face costly logjams at its ports and airports as traders battle their way through the new paperwork. And failure to comply properly with the new rules will mean not only delays, it can even mean the confiscation of goods.

The changes are billed as the biggest upheaval in customs procedures since Britain joined the EEC in 1973 and go towards a Community-wide standard customs document, a new system for classifying and coding goods, and the introduction of a new standardized tariff.

Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade

and Industry, has stressed the importance of removing trade barriers between the 12 member states as the EEC moves towards its goal of a truly common market by 1992.

Trade with the rest of the Community nowadays represents about 60 per cent of the nation's total foreign trade, underlining the importance of the region to the British economy.

This autumn the Government wrote to firms engaged in foreign trade to convey the urgency with which Friday's changes must be addressed. But inquiries to Customs and Excise indicate that only a few of the estimated 100,000 companies engaged in cross-border trade have responded.

The centrepiece of the new procedures, the Single Administrative Document, or SAD, provides a standardized customs form for all exports and imports, and for goods in

transit. The European Free Trade Association, to which Britain belongs, until it joined the EEC, is also adopting the SAD.

The SAD comprises an eight-page set which, in various combinations, satisfies almost all the requirements of EEC member states, eliminating more than 100 different forms now in use.

Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm, has drawn up an action checklist. It advises traders:

- to prepare a master plan;
- to reclassify all import, export or warehoused goods into their new tariff codings;
- to review and revise freight-related accounting and computer systems;
- to review and revise current documentation and procedures; and
- to ensure staff are trained and ready for Friday.

Lloyd's rings the changes to face new challenges and concerns over business

By Alison Eadie

Lloyd's of London, the insurance market, is entering 1988 — its tercentenary year — with a different set of concerns to those of a year ago. Worries about the insurance cycle are now more to the fore than regulatory affairs.

The man at the helm is also changing. Mr Peter Miller has vacated the post of chairman after four eventful years and is being replaced by Mr Murray Lawrence, a non-marine underwriter and senior deputy chairman of Lloyd's.

The main issues facing Lloyd's today are the size of its capital base, which is growing faster than good new business, and the harnessing of new technology to meet the market's needs.

A year ago, Lloyd's was awaking with some trepidation at the outcome of the government-appointed inquiry headed by Sir Patrick Neill and was facing the threat of legal action from disaffected names on former PCW syndicates.

Sir Patrick reported in January and although he suggested 70 reforms, he did not advocate including Lloyd's under the umbrella of the Securities and Investment Board. Instead he proposed increasing the number of independent



Master of all he surveys: Murray Lawrence, the new chairman at Lloyd's of London

named members on the ruling council and reducing the number of working members, so that nominated and external members now outnumber working members. Lloyd's has already adopted more than 30 of the reforms in Sir Patrick's report and is working on the rest. It also devised a compromise settlement to the PCW affair, which satisfied the vast majority of both PCW names and members of the market.

In some ways, 1987 must have been a relief to Lloyd's. After years of being the centre

of political and press attention because of the legacy of financial scandals committed before the 1982 Lloyd's Act, Lloyd's saw the spotlight turned on the securities and banking sectors in the wake of the Guinness affair and insider dealing revelations in the United States and in Britain.

Lloyd's has almost finished its programme of reform, designed to prevent any recurrence of the old problems. The last big item awaiting sanction, the Neill report apart, is the regulation of brokers. The consultative document was

issued in November. All comments must be with Lloyd's by January 22 and the new by-laws are expected to be adopted in March.

The document, to a large extent, proposes what is already best practice in the market. The aim is to extend the best practices across the board and enforce it. Many of the proposals covering ownership, control and operation of brokers are in line with the requirements of the Financial Services Act.

One departure for Lloyd's is

the proposal that insurance companies could be allowed to own 100 per cent of a Lloyd's broker, instead of the present 26 per cent maximum. Within a month of the consultative document's publication, the US insurance group St Paul Companies had launched a recommended bid for Minet Holdings, a Lloyd's broker.

As Lloyd's goes forward into 1988, its regulation will be largely in place, but its business outlook will be bleaker. The fall in the value of the American dollar is unhelpful. Lloyd's writes up to 80 per cent of its business in dollars, half of that in the United States, but its overheads are almost all in sterling.

The dollar's decline will hurt both brokers and underwriters' profitability on transactions. Dollar premiums will be unaffected as they are held in the US in Treasury bonds. The fund has grown in the last four years from \$4.4 billion to \$8.2 billion (£4.4 billion).

The insurance cycle is turning down again with US property and casualty the hardest hit sector. Recently released industry figures showed that American premium growth slumped to 5.8 per cent in the third quarter this year against 10.6 per cent in the second quarter and a high of 29 per cent in the last quarter of 1985.

Although the fall in stock markets worldwide has removed some excess capacity, consistently profitable areas such as marine insurance are suffering from a dearth of business and too many people wanting to write what business there is.

Lloyd's is now attracting more new names than it has business for. The recruiting of new names is causing some concern among existing names and agents are now holding back from recruiting. From Friday, a further 2,500 names will join Lloyd's, taking total membership to nearly 33,850. Lloyd's capacity to write business will also rise to about £11 billion from £10.2 billion in 1987.

The new council will have to address the issues of attracting new business to Lloyd's, while containing costs so that the market's competitive position is not eroded. New technology, which Mr Lawrence has emphasized as a priority, should help cost containment.

It should also eliminate some of the inefficiencies and duplication within Lloyd's and allow underwriters to write smaller lines of business and not just the big "bespoke" business.

One of the hopes for new business in the future is the European Economic Community. At the moment Lloyd's is virtually excluded from writing business in Europe because of national barriers that transgress Community rules on the freedom of services. As the barriers are broken down — and the European Court of Justice has ruled they must go — a market with a population of 330 million people should emerge.

Berry's wheel of fortune

The luck of popular Blue Arrow chairman Tony Berry seems to have changed. Berry — who will no doubt go down in stock market history books for borrowing £8 million from his local branch of Barclays Bank to take up part of his allocation in a Blue Arrow rights issue, at 160p a share, just weeks before the crash of '87 (with those same shares subsequently falling to just 76p) — was back on form at Aspinalls, the Curzon Street casino, last week. Although not normally a gambling man, Berry was to be found relaxing at the top people's night spot with his wife and friends. The casino is, after all, now owned by Land Leisure, the stock market vehicle of Peter de Savary, Berry's partner in the Blue Arrow Challenge for the America's Cup — and I'm told that he walked away from the roulette wheel with a profit of more than £200. His Aspinalls winnings were, however, small fry compared with the steady improvement in his stock market fortunes since the crash. Despite a 12p tumble to 94p yesterday, in line with the market, Berry's 14 million share stake in his company is now worth £13.2 million — some £2.5 million more than it was at its low point eight weeks ago.

Pink pledge

The pledge Mrs Thatcher and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev gave last March to boost Anglo-Soviet trade by 40 per cent before 1990 still

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Bear hug for bookies

Bob "Big Bear" Morton, thus nicknamed by friends because of his rather pessimistic view of the stock market, has been rightly bullish about the potential of his greyhound, Flashy Sir. He backed the two-year-old dog to win in The Laurels at Wimbledon on Boxing Day — one of the top races in the greyhound world — and win he certainly did.

Morton, chairman of fully-quoted electronics company Burgess Group, and also of recently-listed USN property firm Hatfield Estates, went back home with not only a gold trophy and £5,000 prize money, but with several thousand pounds in seed notes on top, representing his winnings from the — for once — disgruntled bookies.

looks a mite ambitious, despite the recent £246 million high-tech contract awarded this month to Simon Parves. In the first 10 months of 1987, British exports to the Soviet Union reached £429 million, while £685 million of imports flowed the other way. The PM would perhaps be well advised

to take a trip to Helsinki to see how the Finns do it. A country of only 5 million people, and short on other natural resources too, Finland's trade with the Soviet Union has been targeted to reach more than \$7 billion in 1988.

Hilton mix

Gamekeeper encouraging a poacher? Tim Hilton, the fresh-out-of-school son of Brian Hilton, the DTT's bearded financial services guru, is off in March, I hear, to join Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the world's leading futures and options exchange, to discover what a "real" marketplace is all about. Is not this relationship a mite closing for a planter of City politics and a would-be practitioner? Definitely not, says Brian. The DTT knows about Tim's plans. What is more, Dad has moved on to bigger things — he is now to head Lord Young's ominous-sounding Central Unit.



"Alternatively we could give them second-hand BP shares."

Plugging a rest

If even the Christmas break has not helped you recover from the stress of working in the City of late, why not try a do-it-yourself version of the latest relaxation craze to sweep Wall Street? Charging \$10 per person, New Yorker Christine Zerner plugs up to 32 people into her Synchro-Energizer machine, the effect being, she claims, "equivalent to 20 years of meditation".

With stress reduction being just one of some 26 beneficial effects — the others include increased self-esteem and improved memory, intelligence, creativity and, somehow, muscle tone — her clientele includes a significant number of investment bankers and brokers. Apparently they lie on a mat on the floor, don goggles which emit a flashing white light and earphones through which can be heard the sound of ocean waves and heartbeats. Somehow I cannot quite imagine the starwatts of Thorngroton Street taking to it quite so eagerly.

● Homebound City workers on the Liverpool Street to Sotheby's line were usually entertained on Christmas Eve. As the train pulled through the suburbs, six young City girls staged an impromptu fashion show for one lucky carriage, complete with towels and a personal introduction for each "model" by an inebriated companion. However, I am told that there was one even more startling difference from any other fashion show — apparently each model was naked from the waist down.

Carol Leonard

News' deal for agency is blocked

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Mr Paul Keating, the Australian Treasurer, yesterday invoked his powers under the Foreign Takeovers Act to prevent News Ltd, the Australian subsidiary of The News Corporation, from buying further shares in the Australian domestic news agency, AAP Information Services.

Mr Keating said to allow News Corp scope to dominate AAPIS might reduce its independence as an impartial news service. "Accordingly I have rejected the proposal on national-interest grounds," he said in a statement.

But Mr Keating said the government did not propose to object to the purchase of shares in Australian Associated Press, the sister company of AAPIS.

News Corp is also cleared to buy Australian Newsprint Mills and Australian Newsprint Mills Investments.

The News Corporation proposed to buy shares in the four companies from John Fairfax, which was itself taken over by Tripart and delisted on the Australian stock exchanges. The deal would have given News Corp 86.8 per cent of AAPIS.

National Australia Bank Limited

NOTICE OF MEETING
Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Members of National Australia Bank Limited will be held at 5th Floor, 500 Bourke Street, Melbourne, Australia on Thursday, January 28th, 1988, at 11.00 a.m.

- Ordinary Business**
1. To receive and consider the balance sheet and statement of profit and loss and the reports of the Directors and of the Auditor for the year ended September 30, 1987.
 2. To elect Directors.
 3. To transact any other business of which a due notice has been given.

Special Business
To consider and, if thought fit, to pass an Ordinary Resolution to approve an increase in the amount from which remuneration is paid to the Directors of the Company and to approve an increase in the amount from which remuneration is paid to Directors of First National Limited who are also Directors of the Company and to approve the establishment of an amount from which remuneration is to be paid to Directors of National Australia Life Limited who are also Directors of the Company.

By order of the Board
R.J. Barnier
Secretary
December 10, 1987.

Proxies
A member or other person entitled to vote may appoint not more than two proxies to attend and vote instead of him. Where more than one proxy is appointed, each proxy must be appointed to represent a specified proportion of the Member's voting rights.
A proxy need not be a Member of the Company.

National Australia Bank
National Australia Bank Limited
Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Australia

Mortgage rate change

Allied Irish Banks plc announces that its Home Mortgage Rate will reduce by 1% to 10.25% with immediate effect for new applicants and with effect from 1st January 1988 for existing customers, who will be advised of amended repayments in due course. A.P.R. 10.8%.



Allied Irish Banks plc
Head Office—Britain, 64/66 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AL.
Telephone: 01-588 0691
Branches throughout the country.

SPC

ENNIS

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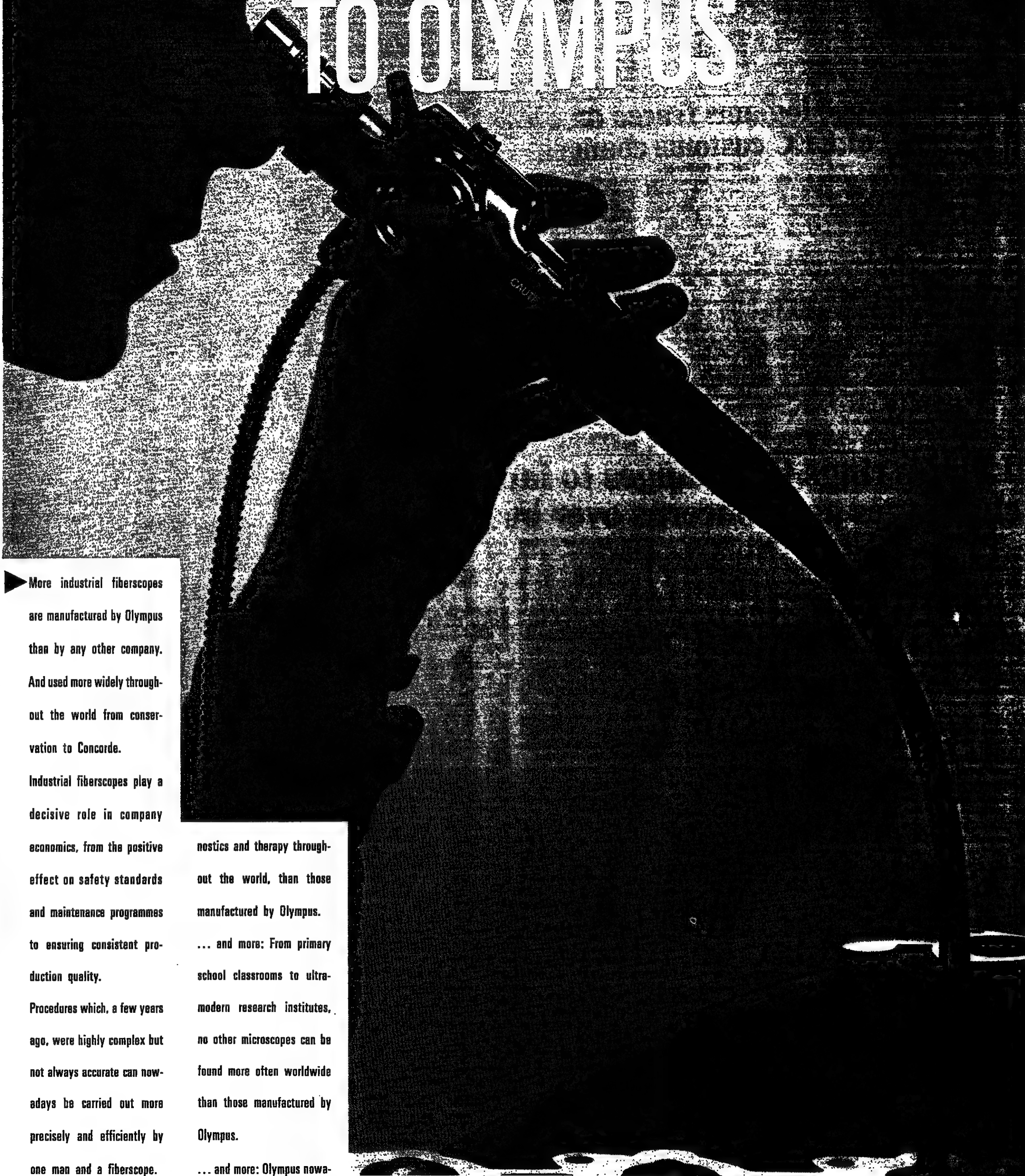
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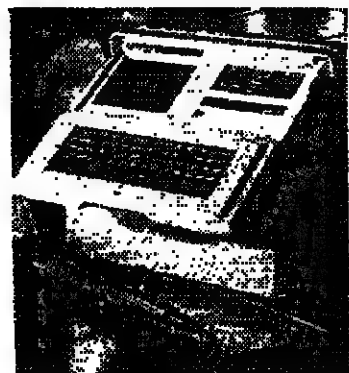
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SCIENCE FOR LIFE

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Simon Barnes argues that officials carry the can for questioning the confidence tricks of competitors

Don't shoot me, I'm only the umpire

This has been the year of the ref and the ump. Read your newspaper: discover how the referees of black shirts and white coats have given us a year of mayhem and violence.

Turn the pages and read how sportsmen throughout the world all agree on one thing: that between them, the refs and umpires have been responsible for tantrums, punches, kickings, elbows, massed brawls and gang-handed punch-ups from the beginning of the year until its last knockings tomorrow.

Take, as a prime example, Richie Davies, a boxing referee apparently responsible for a violent, unprovoked assault on the hapless boxer, Bobby Frankham. The referee, you will recall, gratuitously assaulted Frankham's fist with his face. It is the sort of thing that refs have been doing all year.

Mike Barrett, the man who promoted the show, one which ended in a semi-fiasco among the audience, made it quite clear who was at fault: "The referee in my opinion acted very prematurely and lost control. The premature stopping of the fight started off the fighting. I hope the board will take into consideration the fact that their own referee may have been at fault."

The logic may not be clear to everyone, but I think I have got it right. The man who got hit in the face was responsible for starting the fighting, because he stopped the fight.

There is no end to the tricks these refs get up to when they want to incite violence, is there?

But let us not single out Davies. Read the wise sayings of athletes and club officials and their like throughout the year, and you read a tale of menacing violence, all of which is caused by the conspiracy of referees.

The rugby event of the year was, of course, the 26-man-plus-club-officials-plus-the-director fracas in the York-Dewsbury Rugby League match.

Now obviously the media carry a great deal of blame, because of their scandalous exaggeration. Why, club officials declared, have we been treated for "only" one minute 58 seconds, whereas most of the five minutes some claimed?

But principally, it was the referee's fault.

Pity the poor innocent brawlers in the hands of such a man!

I have not read a single line of remorse for the punch-up — but I have read screeds about the degree of culpability of the ref.

The other rugby code provided something far more horrifying: a brawl in which a player was killed after being kicked in the head.

Two players have subsequently been charged with manslaughter.

It happened in a junior club game in France between Mon-

teux and Marseilles Electricity and Gas Board. And again, the referee has been blamed for "losing control".

And on and on. The reason why violent footballers get sent off is because referees pick on them. The Pakistani umpires apparently forced the England cricketers into histrionic boorishness.

But I am going to report something that will shock and amaze you all. I have seen a good few games of various kinds here and there, and despite everything athletes and officials say, I have never yet seen an ump or a ref throw a punch, stomp a head, knee a groin, elbow a face, or beat any single person about the face and neck. I have seen all these actions performed, and believe it or not, these actions are always performed by the players.

Nor do I have any evidence at all that they were incited to violence by the referees. There has been an increasing trend in sport, tied to the

Games impossible without referees

Increasing awards professional athletes can earn, which is an abrogation of all moral responsibility. The ref and the ump have to carry the

behaviour is governed not by the rules but by the way the rules are administered. If you can get away with it, it must be legal.

And so sport moves ever more swiftly towards a situation when everyone on the pitch is working to hoodwink the referee, and then blame the referee for being hoodwinked.

The referee is in a position of the man who is punched in the teeth and then beaten up as a punishment for manhandling.

You have to go along with refs and umpires in sport, not because they are always right, or because they represent moral worth, or because obedience is good for the soul, but because without them games are impossible. There are no refs in war, but in games the ref is essential, otherwise it ceases to be a game and the athletes are no longer sportsmen.

Sportsmen seem to see themselves not as men endowed with free will, but as violent, slavish forces that can be channelled but never conquered.

Elbow an opponent, and then blame the referee: what could be simpler?

This is a moral confidence trick that athletes play on themselves. For sport is not really played to the referee, it is played by mutual agreement among the players. If athletes refuse to take their share of moral responsibility, when things get heated, as they are always likely to, every now and then — sport in general to be a highly-charged activity, after all — then sport becomes no fun to play, no fun to watch, and loses the only real point it had in the first place.

When that happens we might just as well all pack up and go home — and where will professional sport be then?



On the battlefield of sport: the men in black shirts and white coats under siege — Getting disputes with Shakhov Rana (left), Frankham hits out at Richie Davies (top right) and Graham Roberts, of Bangor, protests as Graeme Souness is sent off



Durie finds Bollegraf's chip shots unplayable

From Barry Wood, Brisbane

While Jo Durie suffered the indignity of a 6-1, 6-4 defeat by little-known Marion Bollegraf, of The Netherlands, in the second round of the Women's Classic, the headlines were made by Pascale Paradis who dismissed Helena Sukova, the No. 2 seed, in straight sets.

The 21-year-old from Paris recovered from losing the first four games to win 6-4, 6-3 and claim the best victory of her career against an opponent ranked seventh in the world.

Miss Paradis was once in the top 30, but a slump in form saw her fall to 135. A revival began when she returned to the French Tennis Federation, and since then she has managed to rekindle the skills that had been smothered in self-doubt and tactical confusion.

"I had to improve my game because I was being pushed by the other girls in the federation. They were only 16, and they were better than me," she said. "I worked hard and began to feel better when I beat Anne White and Ros Fairbank in Los Angeles in August."

Conceding the first four games against such an awesome opponent would have been a crushing blow to many, but Miss

Paradis refused to consider defeat.

"She had a few lucky shots, so I just kept going. I could have served a little better but my returns were the best of my whole life," she said. "I can't drink any of it myself because I have another match, but I'm going to buy some champagne to celebrate for the other French girls here."

Miss Durie, meanwhile, at the age of 27, has still not learned what to do if her opponent refuses to play into her hands by hitting the ball hard at her. Miss Bollegraf used chip shots effectively right from the start and Miss Durie did not have a clue what to do about it.

Adelaide (AP) — Jeremy Bates, the seventh-seeded British, beat Marc Flur, of the United States, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in the first round of the Australian Open tournament.

Wellington (AP) — Kelly Evernden, of New Zealand, the No. 2 seed, took just 58 minutes to defeat Jerome Potier, of France, 6-2, 6-1, yesterday in the New Zealand Open. Evernden is the favourite for the title following Jonas Svensson's first-round defeat by David Lewis, of New Zealand.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Patriots finish season on a winning note

Miami (AP) — Steve Grogan threw for 238 yards and two touchdowns as the New England Patriots, eliminated from the National Football League playoffs a day earlier, beat the Miami Dolphins 24-10 on Monday night in the final game of the 1987 regular season.

Grogan, playing with a broken bone in his left hand, connected with Irving Fryar for a three-yard score after a Miami fumble, then found Stephen Spurr for a 34-yard pass to cap a 79-yard drive. Grogan completed 21 of 32 passes.

Tony Collins ran five yards for the final New England touchdown, and Tony Frankland kicked a field goal to give the Patriots a 24-3 half-time lead.

Miami's Dan Marino threw a nine-yard touchdown pass to James Pruitt in the fourth quarter.

Both teams finished one game behind Indianapolis, the AFC Eastern champions.

FINAL TABLE
Eastern division
Indianapolis Colts 11-5
Miami Dolphins 10-6
New England Patriots 9-7
New York Jets 6-10

RUGBY LEAGUE

Offiah considered for first international cap

By Keith Macklin

The remarkable rise of Martin Offiah continues. The former Kootenay Park and Barbarians winger, who plays for Widnes, will get his first full international cap in one of the two matches between Great Britain and France.

Malcolm Reilly, the Great Britain coach, said yesterday that he will give Offiah a run in one of the games, if not both. Reilly has not yet released his squads.

On Sunday, the speedy winger equalled the first division record of 11 consecutive try-scoring appearances established by Gary Prohm, of Hull Kingston Rovers.

Offiah is now pursuing the all-time record of 17, held by Eric Harris, the former Leeds and Australia winger, which has stood for more than 50 years. When cap appearances with Widnes are taken into account, Offiah's scoring run stands at 15 matches.

Another Great Britain winger, Jonny Dixon, is having a less fortunate time. Dixon, who was booed by his own Wigan supporters following a tackle in a John Player Special Trophy tie against Sheffield Eagles on November 22, may now pay the full price for the incident.

Chris Rudd, the Hull Kingston Rovers hooker and one of the game's brightest young prospects, was in a serious condition yesterday after receiving multiple skull fractures in a car accident.

Hunslet have agreed to play Leigh Miners, an amateur side, at Leigh's Hilton Park ground on Friday, January 15 in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup preliminary round. Hunslet were originally opposed to the night match, preferring a Saturday or Sunday game.

RACING

Aintree on horizon for Team Challenge

Jenny Pitman's Team Challenge, the youngest horse in the field for the J.H. Rowe Challenge Trophy at Stratford yesterday, gave his seniors a jumping lesson. The five-year-old mastered Dr Pepper after the third from home and won pulling up by three lengths.

Mrs Pitman is now thinking in terms of the Brooke Bond Oxo at Warwick and the Midlands National at Uttoxeter for Team Challenge but she complained: "His career was spoiled when he finished second in a hunter chase in Ireland and got the race in the stewards' room."

"It meant I couldn't run him in novice chases, he couldn't take on handicappers as a four-year-old so I had to send him novice hurdling."

"He's a very nice horse and very clever, and if he keeps going the right way could be the Grand National horse his owners have always wanted."

Mrs Pitman had good news of Burrough Hill Lad declaring: "I'm over the moon and I'm happier with him than I've been for three years. He does five miles every day, and he's so strong and powerful his rider comes back glowing like a bedlam beacon."

"Cheltenham is obviously the target and all being well he'll definitely run in the National, but I wouldn't advise anyone to bet a million pounds. It's very much a day-to-day job and a case of gently tightening the screw."

Malton trainer Jimmy Fitzgerald had to settle for only his second winner over the Christmas period when Gold Options justified a short price in the first division of the Auld Lang Syne Novices' Hurdle.

The even money favourite, running his second race in England, did his job really well, and the ex-Irish gelding looks a good prospect. Mark Dwyer produced Gold Options to jump to the front at the last, and he soon strode six lengths clear.

Fitzgerald commented: "He'll be better on a more galloping track, but we came here for the going, which is so often the best in England. Gold Options will make a chaser one day."

The Malton trainer confirmed that stable star Foghorn Nought could be his second winner in Boxing Day unscathed and the next big target will be Leopardstown's Vincent O'Brien Irish Gold Cup in February, which he won in great style last season.

Steel Yeoman off the mark in game style

Steel Yeoman opened his account for the season in the Boxing Day event at Plumpton yesterday, the Racing Post Handicap Chase. Josh Gifford charge was always travelling well on the outside and stayed gallantly by a neck to Merula.

"He's an out-and-out stayer but he's a bit slow," said Gifford. "They went far too fast for him at Sandown last time, but it's been a bit better here."

"He was brought as a yearling at Newmarket by my late father and we sold him on to Mrs Heather Allen as a 6-year-old," he added.

Headfield trainer Derm Browning produced a 33-1 surprise when Tribal Drum romped home in the appropriately named Headfield Novices' Hurdle.

European Law Report

Man's pension obligation for surviving spouse not sex discrimination

Newstead v Department of Transport and H. M. Treasury
Case 192/85

Before G. Bosco, President of Chamber, acting as President and Judges O. Due, J. C. Motinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, T. Koopmans, U. Everling, K. Bahlmann, Y. Galmot, R. J. Kakouris, R. Joliet and F. A. Schöckweiler

Advocate General M. Darnon (Opinion June 2, 1987) [Judgment December 3]

In the absence of specific Directive extending the principle of equal treatment to benefits for surviving spouses, Community law did not prevent an employer from making a deduction from the salaries of male employees only, as a contribution to a widows' pension fund.

Under the applicable United Kingdom legislation the principal civil service pension scheme (the 1974 occupational scheme established by the State for civil servants, was a substitute for the earnings-related part of the state pension scheme.

The scheme, to which Mr Newstead belonged, made provision for a widows' pension fund which was financed in part by the contributions of civil servants. However, although male civil servants, whatever their marital status, were obliged to contribute to the fund by means of a 1.5 per cent deduction from their gross salary, female civil servants were never obliged to contribute to the fund, although they might in certain circumstances be permitted to do so.

Mr Newstead, who was unmarried, argued before an industrial tribunal that the obligation to contribute to the widows' pension fund had the effect of discriminating against him in comparison with a female civil servant in an equivalent post, since she was not obliged to give up 1.5 per cent of her gross salary as a contribution to the fund, albeit temporarily. The tribunal dismissed his application.

On appeal, however, the

Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) decided to quash the proceedings and to refer to the Court of Justice of the European Communities a number of questions of interpretation of article 119 of the EEC Treaty.

Council Directive No 75/117 of February 10, 1975 on the principle of equal pay for men and women (OJ 1975 No L45, p19) and Council Directive No 76/207 of February 9, 1976 on equal treatment for men and women as to access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions (OJ No 1976, No L39, p40).

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

By its first question the EAT asked in essence whether it was

a breach of article 119, read together with Directive 75/117 for an employer to pay to men and women the same gross salary but to deduct 1.5 per cent of the gross salary of men only as a contribution to a widows' pension fund.

As the UK and the Commission had rightly pointed out, the difference between the net pay of men and women in the case before the EAT was the result of the fact that only men were required to belong to the widows' pension fund and thus have a deduction made from their salary as a contribution to the fund.

It had therefore to be concluded that the factor which gave rise to the disparity at issue was neither a benefit paid to

workers nor a contribution paid by the employer to a pension scheme on behalf of the employee, which might be regarded as "consideration . . . which the worker received, directly or indirectly" within the meaning of article 119.

That disparity was in fact the result of the fact that a contribution to an occupational pension scheme. Such a contribution, like a contribution to a statutory social security scheme, had therefore to be considered to fall within the scope of article 118 of the Treaty, not article 119.

In its judgments in Case 69/80 *Worringham and Humphrey v Lloyds Bank* (1981) ECR 767 and Case 23/83 *Lifting v Academisch Ziekenhuis bij de*

workers nor a contribution paid by the employer to a pension scheme on behalf of the employee, which might be regarded as "consideration . . . which the worker received, directly or indirectly" within the meaning of article 119.

The Court had emphasized that although the extra pay was subsequently deducted by the employer and paid into a pension fund on behalf of the employee, it determined the calculation of other salary-related benefits and was therefore a component of the worker's pay for the purpose of article 119.

However, in the case before the EAT, the deduction in question resulted in a reduction

in net pay because of a contribution to a social security scheme and in no way affected gross pay, on the basis of which other salary-related benefits were normally calculated.

This case could not therefore be governed by the approach taken by the Court in the cases referred to, and did not fall within the scope of article 119.

Directive 75/117 did not affect that conclusion. As the Court had stated in Case 96/80 *Jenkins v Kingsgate* (1981) ECR 911, the Directive was principally designed to facilitate the practical application of the principle of equal pay laid down in article 119 and in no way affected the scope or content of the EAT's deduction in question resulted in a reduction

Community act, the coherence of the system required that the power to declare the same act invalid, if that question were raised before a national court, should also be reserved to the Court.

It was also to be emphasized that it was the Court which was best placed to rule upon the validity of Community acts. Community institutions whose acts were in dispute, had pursuant to article 20 of the Protocol on the Statute of the Court, the right to intervene before the Court in order to defend the validity of such acts.

Moreover, the Court might, pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 21 of that Protocol, require Community institutions not being parties to the case to supply all information which the Court considered necessary for the proceedings.

In the event that the Court of Justice alone had jurisdiction to decide upon the validity of the Commission's decision, the Finanzgericht asked, in the second question, whether that decision was valid.

It was necessary to point out that article 5(2) of Regulation No 1697/79 laid down three specific conditions under which the appropriate authorities might waive the post-clearance

the validity of a Community act, and if they were of the opinion that the arguments relating to validity raised by the parties were unfounded might reject those arguments and conclude that the act was valid. By so deciding they did not call into question the existence of the Community act.

However, such courts did not have the power to declare acts of Community institutions invalid. As the Court had held in *International Chemical Corporation v Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato* Case 66/80 (1981) ECR 1191, the main purpose of the powers accorded to the Court by article 177 was to ensure that Community law was applied uniformly by national courts. Uniform application of Community law was particularly important when the validity of a Community act was in question.

Divergences between the courts of member states with regard to validity of Community acts might compromise the very unity of the Community legal order and thereby undermine the fundamental requirement of legal certainty.

Since article 173 had granted exclusive jurisdiction to the Court for annulment of a

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On appeal, however, the

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Norman Giller recalls who said what in the world of sport in 1987

Woosnam will be a great golfer when he grows up

— Severiano Ballesteros talking after the 5ft 4in Ian Woosnam had won the Suntory World Match Play Championship

I was in the corner when Mansell came in. I could see he was not coming to apologise. His face was not right for that. You don't come to apologise when you get hold of somebody by the throat. *Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian driver, on an altercation in the pits after he and Mansell had collided in the Belgian Grand Prix.*

I look at some of the people around today and I bloody well weep. That Mark Haterley; they're talking about spending millions on him and the poor bloke can't play the game. Couldn't trap a dead rat, yet he's made a fortune. *Stan Bowles, former England footballer, talking before his testimonial match at Brentford.*

I feel like a pool winner. *Mark Haterley after signing for Monaco in a three-year deal that brings him a tax-free £1 million.*

I'm sick of being a meal ticket for people like Anderson. He's not box office. All he'll do is bring his bag and boots and he'll go away with his bag full of money. *Tony Sibson on hearing that his opponent, Brian Anderson, was to get 60 per cent of the purse for their British and Commonwealth title bout.*

If there is a revolution in this country I'd now be in the first 10,000 to the guillotine but not the first 1,000. *J.J. (John) Warr, on being elected MCC president.*

The only money Forest directors cough up is when they buy a golden goal ticket. *Brian Clough, Nottingham Forest manager, casting an envious eye on the big spending by his former club, Derby County.*

I have got nothing to say. At our club no-one is allowed to say anything. *Stuart Pearce, Nottingham Forest defender, on being asked about winning his first cap for England.*

Reference Point kept looking at the crowds like he was happy to be alive. *Steve Casahan after winning the Derby on Reference Point.*

We had hoped that banning your clubs from European competition would have a good effect on England. But obviously there are still silly men around. They are quite mad. In Europe 34 teams say we want English teams back, but 34 heads say no. *Jacques Georges, president of UEFA, after crowd trouble involving English supporters at Hampden Park.*

Lendl's whole attitude is lousy. To my mind he represents a threat to tennis. He's got no real personality, his physical performance is not enough and it's because of him that fewer people are interested in the game. He stands for everything I don't want to be. There is good and bad in being No. 1. People can look at me and say that all I've done is stand and scream at umpires. But you have to look at the overall picture. You can decide whether a guy is a great champion by what he takes from a game and gives back. When I was young I was inspired by Borg and Connors. They wanted to make you play tennis. Lendl just wants to make me stop. *John McEnroe on his rivalry with Ivan Lendl.*

McEnroe's problem has not been injuries, but a failure to live with the reality that he's no longer the best. *Mats Wilander on John McEnroe's decision to withdraw from Wimbledon.*

It's a helluva living, but it's not a natural way of life. I'd like my kids to hit a tennis ball just for fun and then go to their own way. People think it's all glamour and glitter, but that applies only when you're lifting the Wimbledon trophy and taking the cheque. *Jimmy Connors on being a globe-trotting tennis player.*

I have been receiving dozens of letters from the public on the subject of spitting. It is perhaps not realized that this has been seen in close-up on TV. May I ask you therefore not to spit on court. *Buzzar Haddingham, Wimbledon chairman, in a letter written in English, French and German and pinned on the Wimbledon noticeboard.*

Other girls my age think about boys, boys, boys. I think about tennis, tennis, tennis. *Steffi Graf.*

I'm not immortal. I didn't lose a war, nobody died... I only lost a tennis match. *Boris Becker after his second-round defeat at Wimbledon by Peter Doolan, a 500-1 outsider.*

My guitar and tennis racket are not the most important things in the world any more. *Pat Cash on becoming a father.*

Women's tennis is junk... two sets of rubbish that last just half an hour. Many of the girls are earning £150,000 for just sitting on their backsides. They're robbing men's tennis. The public come to see the men play, but the women get virtually the same money. People would rather watch a practice game between Becker and me than a women's final. *Pat Cash on women's tennis.*

It all sounds narrow-minded and a little dumb. It's quality not quantity that counts. *Pam Shriver replying to Cash.*

There's nothing more I can do but lie back and think of England. *Jim Thorne, the Wimbledon groundsman, watching the rain lash down on his courts.*

Herol boxed just like a horse that has been noddled. *Barney Eastwood, boxing manager and millionaire bookmaker, after Graham's European title defeat by Sambu Kalamby of Italy.*

Graham has turned defensive boxing into a poetic art. Trouble is, nobody ever knocked anyone out with a poem. *Eddie Shaw, boxing trainer.*

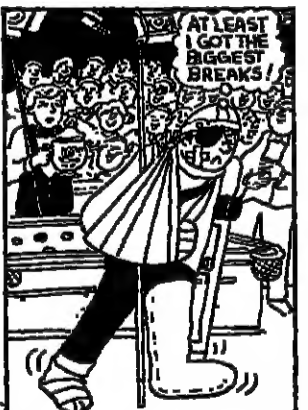
Art begins with a technique. Following that, there is geometry, an aesthetic of the art. Finally, there is the emotion. A 50-metre pass delivered by Platini, or a dribble by Maradona, is art in its purest form, no doubt about it. *Michel Platini talking on his retirement from football.*

The time to walk out is when we win the first division and the European Cup. Then I might say, "Stick the job". There is no panic at Roker Park. We'll keep our heads down and battle it out. I'll take all the knives and bullets. *Lawrie McMenemy, talking in January. In April, with Sunderland on the brink of relegation from the second division, he walked out.*

One problem was that gentlemen with white and brown faces confronted each other quite determined to have a punch-up. I have never seen it before on a Test ground, and I hope never to see it again. *Raman Sabba Row, TCCB chairman, after crowd trouble during the one-day international between England and Pakistan at Edgbaston.*

It hasn't really sunk in yet that I'm champion again. It probably will when I sober up. I intend to get paralytic. That's how much winning means to me. *Steve Davis after regaining the world snooker championship.*

I can measure Steve's success by the number of empty jars of Marmite that are stacked in the larder. I put Marmite into all of Steve's sandwiches. If every Marmite jar I've emptied was laid end to end they would stretch up the M1 and then up the M6. I can measure Steve's life in Marmite bottles. *Steve Davis's mother on her recipe for success.*



I deserved to get run over — but Steve didn't just knock me down. He backed over me a couple of times to make sure. *Kirk Stevens after a snooker defeat by Steve Longworth.*

I'm at that difficult age where I'm physically unable to compete, but mentally too alert to become a selector. *Sebastian Coe on his decision to build an alternative career with Adam Faith's personality management company.*

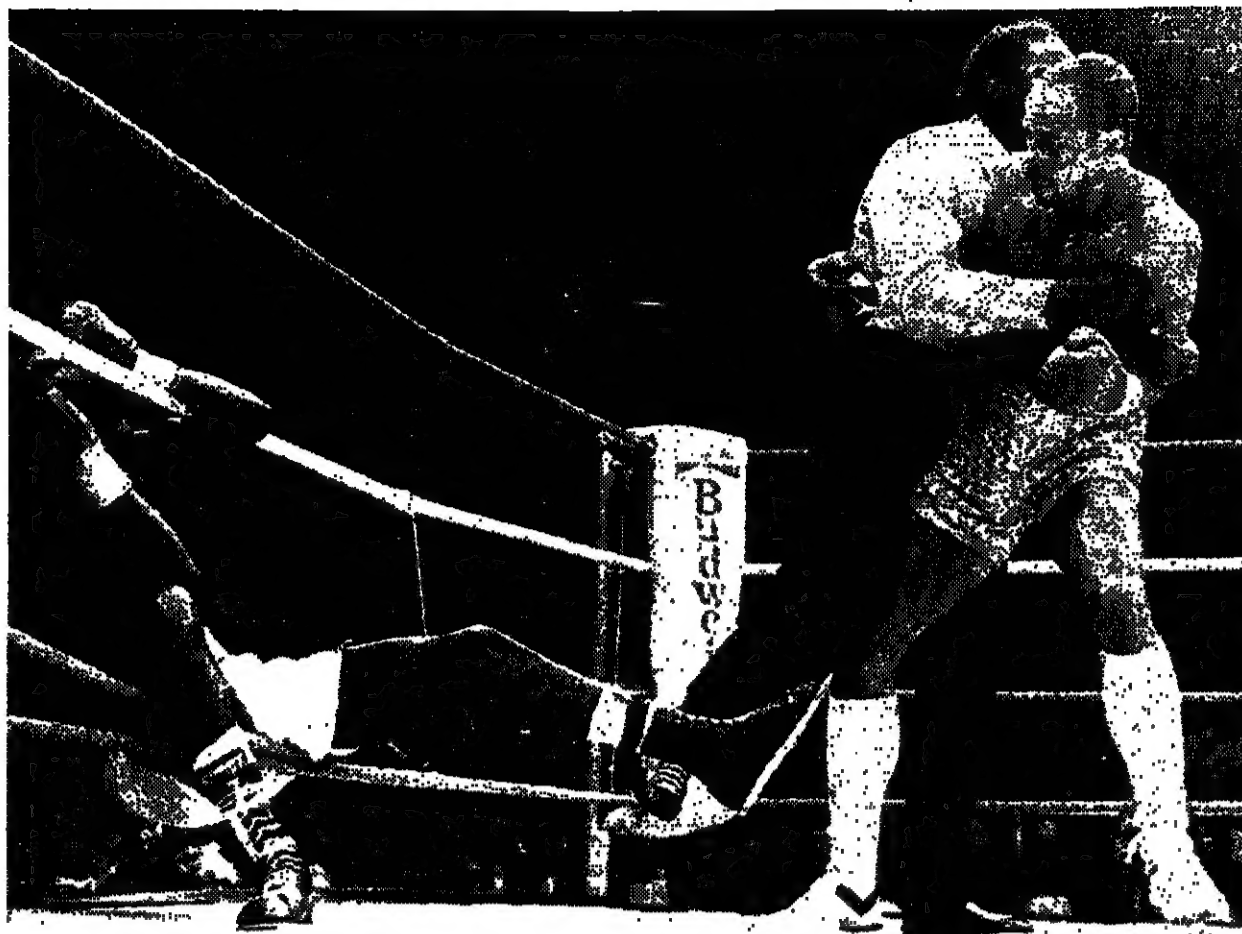
I always say that to maintain interest in sport, it is important never to meet sportsmen. *Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labour Party.*

I always say that to maintain an interest in politics, it is important never to meet politicians. *Jimmy Greaves, former footballer and now TV pundit, on hearing Roy Hattersley's view of sportsmen.*

There are a lot of small-minded guys down the money-list who secretly begrudge one or two people taking more out of the pot. They're the ones who can walk through a supermarket and not be recognized... the ones who can't draw flies when they walk on a golf course. *Liz Taylor gets two million dollars a movie. Is she worth it compared to some beautiful young bird? Yes, because she's a star. Tony Jacklin on whether leading golfers should be paid appearance money.*

Every punch was thrown with bad intentions. I was in there to fight, not to play. *Mike Tyson after knocking out Pinklon Thomas in the sixth round of a world heavyweight title defence.*

You have to eat during the race and I'll be on vegetables, fruit and easily digestible stuff. It wouldn't be clever to grab a hamburger. The last thing I need is diarrhoea in the chancé. *John Watson on his eating plans for the Le Mans 24-hour race.*



'The bell went ding and I went dong'

Lloyd Honeyghan on his knockdown of Johnny Bumphus with the first punch of round two of his world title defence

Unless things change, "you won't see me running in these domestic meetings. The whole system is a joke. I know what I'm worth: why should I run here for this amount when I can go abroad and earn much more? *Steve Ovett on hearing that he would be paid "only" £1,000 a race in the six leading British track and field meetings. His protest brought a pay rise.*

Steve Ovett says that it's absurd that Fatima Whitbread should collect £10,000 for the javelin, which takes just four seconds to throw. He likens it to the dolly birds who parade in the ring between rounds collecting the same as the boxers. Well, if I'd been Fatima I would have thrown a javelin through Ovett's head. She's a world record holder who has brought excitement to the sport. *David Sharpe, Steve Cram's training partner. I find it worrying that most of my fellow international athletes seem to be consumed by how much cash they can earn. Roger Black, Commonwealth and European 400 metres champion.*

You wouldn't treat a dog the way I've been treated. In some ways I'm glad to be going because you don't want to work for people like that. *John Board on his dismissal as manager of Birmingham City.*

These people earn several million dollars and they don't want to pay a few thousand for a licence which is a tool of their job. They earn all that money and not one would buy you a cup of coffee. *Bernie Ecclestone, head of Brabham's formula one team, on the reluctance of grand prix drivers to pay a licence levy.*

Bonecrusher just came to stink the joint out. *Kevie Rooney, Mike Tyson's trainer, after James "Bonecrusher" Smith had lost a dull world title bout on points.*

Sure I fought to survive. Wouldn't you? *Bonecrusher Smith to the press after his bout with Tyson.*

In tennis the public would rather watch John McEnroe or Jimmy Connors than Ivan Lendl or Bjorn Borg. In snooker it's no different. The public will flock to watch me or Stephen Hendry play before they come to watch Steve Davis. People want to be entertained. *Alex Higgins, The Duke of Edinburgh, when asked if he had any complaints about modern cricket.*

At one stage I was out on the balcony with captain Mike Gatting trying to count the number of Pakistani players on the field. But I gave up counting because I don't carry a calculator. *Mickey Stewart, England's cricket manager, after accusing Pakistan of time-wasting by the use of substitutes during the first Test at Old Trafford.*

Ray Leonard's retirements last about as long as Elizabeth Taylor's marriages. *Bob Arum, American boxing promoter.*

Many of the world's greatest entertainers have changed in those Palladium dressing rooms, but I was disappointed by them. They put me in mind of the dressing-rooms at Hartlepool. *Chris Waddle, Tottenham Hotspur and England footballer, talking after his appearance with Glenn Hoddle on Live at the Palladium.*

I tried to get my mind off the match by watching television. But that was hopeless. British television has got to be the worst in the world. *Pat Cash, talking about how he prepared for his Wimbledon championship final against Ivan Lendl.*

I know I'm different from Australian players of the past. Can you imagine any of them wearing a diamond earring? *Pat Cash after winning the Wimbledon singles title.*

Pat Cash is wrong to claim he is the first Australian to win at Wimbledon while wearing a diamond earring. What about Evonne Cawley? *Jimmy Greaves.*

I am not disappointed to be given what they call the sack for the first time in my life. Strangely, although I always thought such a situation would be upsetting, I find it interesting. *Terry Venables after the loss of his job at Barcelona.*

I only wish some of the players' trousers fitted better. *The Duke of Edinburgh, when asked if he had any complaints about modern cricket.*

A lot of people thought I was just a slippery Cockney boy with a few jokes. It has taken one of the biggest clubs in the world to acknowledge what I can do. *Terry Venables on his success with Barcelona.*

In two years they say that he has gone from being the best coach to being useless. He has been like a favourite son to me and the greatest manager in the history of our club. *José Luis Nunez, president of Barcelona, after announcing the departure of Terry Venables following three defeats in the first four matches of the new season.*

When I was a kid I would stand on the putting green saying, "This to win the Open." And when I was looking at a 40-footer at the last today, I thought, "Here you go, this to win the Open." *Nick Faldo, Open champion.*

I cannot recall such rank bad sportsmanship. It was disgraceful. This is not the way we expect spectators to behave at the Open. *Alastair Low, chairman of the R & A Championship committee, after a small section of the crowd at Muirfield had cheered Paul Azinger's second shot on the final hole as it ran into a bunker. The shot wrecked Azinger's hopes of becoming champion.*

All my life I've been naturally quick and am used to running on my toes. Now I often feel as if I'm on my bloody knees. *Steve Ovett on his punishing training schedule after stepping up to the 5,000 metres.*

There is something fundamentally wrong when men are paid to lose. These athletes are getting paid bigger fees for running and dropping out than for completing the distance. *Sir Arthur Gold, President of the European Athletics Association, on the use of pacemakers.*

If Saleem Yousuf picks up a half-volley, all right, it is called cheating. But everyone is doing it. It has now become absolutely necessary in professional cricket today. Every team is working out strategies in the dressing-room on how to pressure the umpire. *Haseeb Ali Khan, manager of the Pakistan cricket team, during their England tour.*

It was a bad way to get famous. *Bobby Frankham, the boxer, after sparking a riot at Wembley Grand Hall when he punched the referee who had stopped his contest in the first round. Frankham has since been banned from boxing indefinitely.*

Like all mothers, I never wanted him to box. I wish I had put ballet shoes on him and not boxing gloves. *Hazel Frankham talking about her son Bobby.*

I think Gabriela and I will become the new Martina and Chris. We can be at the top in tennis for a long time to come. *Steffi Graf, after beating Gabriela Sabatini in the final of the Virginia Slims championship in New York.*

If a grand prix driver arrived in a hospital casualty department with the same heartbeat he has in a race he'd be slapped straight into intensive care. Walking down the street you have a heart rate of 60-70. During a grand prix, ours will average 180, 190 or 200, with peaks of 200-300 at critical moments. *Dr Jonathan Palmer, talking before driving in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.*

Does Joe Bugner want to earn a lot of money or just talk about earning a lot of money? He has a chance to earn between half and three-quarters of a million pounds and is making up reasons why he should not take the fight with Bruno. *Barry Hearn, snooker impresario and now also a boxing promoter, after at first failing to persuade Joe Bugner to meet Frank Bruno in London.*

For years Bugner has done almost everything except insult my wife and kids. He has ranted on about how I'm no good and scared of him. I am really sick of it. Now I am ready, willing and waiting for him. Where are you Joe? Who's scared now? *Frank Bruno.*

Frank Bruno says I'm chicken. Well you can tell him that I've come home to roost. *Joe Bugner after agreeing to take the bout with Bruno.*

I was proud of Frank. He did a fantastic job on me. I'm retiring now. Let them find somebody else to boo. *Joe Bugner, after being stopped in eight rounds by Bruno and going home to Australia with the biggest purse of his career. It's all too polite around here. You'd think this match was being played in Britain for all the support we're getting from our own people. Jack Nicklaus, non-playing captain of the United States Ryder Cup team, as he watched Europe take an early hold on the trophy on his golf course at Muirfield, Ohio.*

I don't quite know what Jack was getting up to in whipping up the crowds like that. He came up to me, put his hands on my shoulders and apologized for all the din, claiming he'd had nothing to do with it. What I know damn well he did. *Tony Jacklin, Europe's non-playing captain, as the American crowd boiled over with chauvinism during the last day of the Ryder Cup competition.*

This is the greatest week of my life. It will change the course of world golf. *Tony Jacklin, with tears in his eyes after Europe had won the Ryder Cup for the first time on American soil.*

The only place Steve turns up for nothing is at his mother's for breakfast. *Howard Clark talking about his Ryder Cup colleague, Severiano Ballesteros.*

It's so depressing out here. Shoot something encouraging you chaps. *Phil Edwards, the England cricketer, talking to spectators while fielding in the deep during Pakistan's 708-run victory in the final Test at the Oval. Back came the shouted reply: "This could be your last Test."*

I have made it a condition of the contract with Elton John that if the League's management committee do not sanction this with whole-hearted approval we will walk away from it. Who knows what will happen to Watford then? *Robert Maxwell, Derby County chairman, replying to speculation that the Football League would block the takeover of Watford by his company, BPC.*

We are now waiting for Mr Maxwell to honour his word and walk away from his deal with Watford. *Philip Carter, League management committee chairman, after the League had refused to give its approval to the Watford takeover bid.*

We knew things would happen out there, but we didn't think it would be so blatant. I wouldn't be very happy to win like that. A lot of the decisions against... *Qadir, was difficult to cope with, but it's easy to bowl when you are getting so much help from the pitch. Mike Gatting after England's defeat in a bad-tempered first Test in Lahore, during which nine umpiring decisions were considered suspect by the England team.*

Mike Gatting used some very filthy language to the umpire and, let me tell you, some very filthy words are "bastard" and "son of a bitch", and so on. No one has the right to abuse umpires. *General Saeed Bhatti, president of the Pakistan Cricket Board, giving a summary of the row between Mike Gatting, the England captain, and Shaukat Rana, the Pakistani umpire, that stopped the second Test in Faisalabad.*

Pakistan have been cheating us for 37 years and it is getting worse. It was bad enough when I toured in 1951. The TCCB should bring the team home. *Tom Graveney, the former England batsman.*

I will find it very hard to get the motivation to play another match in Pakistan. *Mike Gatting after he had been ordered by the TCCB to make a written apology to umpire Shaukat Rana.*

Stephen Roche, talking as more than 300,000 people welcomed him home to Dublin after his victory in the Tour de France

'Now I know how the Pope must feel'

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Lack of discipline hardly the fault of referees

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

During the first half of the season, a player was sent off on average in every eighth League fixture. If the potential record rate of dismissals is maintained during the forthcoming holiday programme, another 11 will be added to the overall total, which already stands at 147.

The figure is disgraceful. Unless there is a significant improvement over the next five months, the final sum will far exceed the previous peak of 229. It was reached five years ago when referees were instructed to order off those who committed so-called "professional fouls" or deliberately handled the ball. The experiment was dropped at the end of the season.

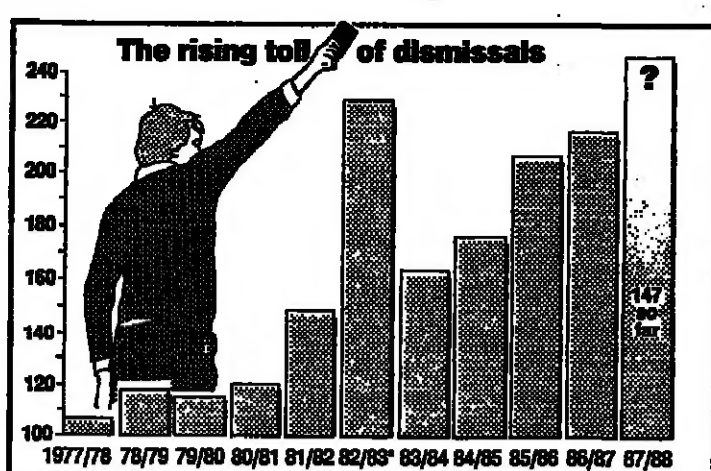
Since the number of unsavoury incidents inside and outside the grounds has mercifully been reduced, the increase of indiscipline on the pitch is particularly regrettable. But who is to blame? Although referees have been criticized collectively for their over-

reaction it would seem that it is the players who are losing control.

Bruce Rioch, the manager of Middlesbrough, has no doubts. He waved his own yellow card in front of his squad yesterday and stated that "my players have been warned that I will not tolerate a lack of discipline." His words were aimed principally in the direction of Stuart Ripley.

Middlesbrough's winger was sent off with his fellow pugilist, Glynn Snoddy of Leeds United, before the interval at Elland Road, on Monday. "When players go onto the pitch, it should be to play football," Rioch added. "If they want to box, let them go into a ring."

The reference is not inappropriate. The marking has become so tight, most defences push up so far and the off-side tactic is employed so often that the modern game is being squeezed into an area not significantly bigger than that used by gloved fighters.



* Sendings off increased after FA clampdown against handling and the professional foul

In such a condensed space that is populated by so many contestants, it is inevitable that physical collisions should be more abundant. Local derbies are not the only matches nowadays that sound as if they are being staged in the middle of a violent thunder storm.

The recent rise in serious injuries, such as fractured jaws and skulls, indicates that more malicious acts are indeed being committed. Duncan Jackson, the secretary of the Association of the Football League Referees and Linesmen, confirms that "we are dealing with more nasty fouls such as the use of the elbow."

Referees are accused of inconsistency, with some justification, but one of their representatives who preferred to remain anonymous, defended his colleagues. "I feel I've done a good job if I've been consistent for 90 minutes. How can you expect all referees to be consistent over 40-odd games? The players aren't, are they?"

"That, unfortunately, seems to be with us at the moment and it shouldn't be," he said. "I don't think referees are over-reacting. They are giving what they see. We've heard in recent weeks about a rift between players and officials but that is not true."

"The system depends on the relationship between the two parties and we should get together and talk about the problem. But, above all, the attitude must be right." Since the crime of dissent is also escalating, it would seem again to be the responsibility of players to correct their code of behavior.

In the present climate, which is so competitive that it is almost unhealthy, it would be optimistic to expect clubs to ask their players to limit their commitment. Gordon Taylor, the secretary of the Professional Footballers Association, has suggested that those who fail to do so should be punished.

Jackson agrees that Taylor's proposal (that clubs collecting a total of 200 disciplinary points, for example, would have League points deducted the following season) "would help". Although Graham Kelly, the secretary of the League, has dismissed the idea, it would be inexcusable for the authorities to take no action.

As the accompanying graph illustrates, the standard of behaviour has fallen steadily, apart from the exceptional 1982-83 season, over the last decade. Yet an example is currently being set. Liverpool, the runaway leaders of the first division, have had only three players booked so far, the best disciplinary record in the whole League.

Perfect timing for great dreams

By Andrew Longmore

There are differing notions about the Paris to Dakar rally. In Britain, since Mark Thatcher's much-publicized disappearance on the 1982 event, it has been viewed as an up-market Wacky Races; in France it has become a national obsession.

Paris Match has produced a special issue celebrating its tenth anniversary. Channel 5 will be devoting 45 hours of coverage to it and teams like Peugeot, Mitsubishi and Range Rover have spent millions trying to win it.

According to a recent survey, 99 per cent of the population of France had heard of the Paris to Dakar, 95 per cent associated it with cars and 68 per cent followed its progress closely, figures which comfortably eclipse the Tour de France - 95 per cent, 85 per cent (with bikes) and 40 per cent respectively.

Only if you can imagine a Test match at Lord's between two all-time greats (and lasting for 21 days), can you get somewhere near understanding the fixation of a nation or the feelings of the nostalgia the Paris to Dakar fosters.

For the French, the rally is a perfect blend: romanticism - "all French long to go into the desert and watch the sun set", as Andrew Cowan says; history - most of the route traverses former French colonies; speed and, as one competitor put it so aptly, "the perfume of adventure". But the most perfect thing about the rally is not the event itself, it is the timing of it.

There is something very neat about starting the new year with a touch of hard graft against the elements. Something absurdly logical too. If you can spend the first three weeks of the year conquering the Algerian plains and the Sahara, surely the rest of the year must be all downhill?

And if you do not make it, you can always fall back on the fact that you had a go and dream about next year. Apart from all that, of course, nothing much happens in January, so the event is guaranteed maximum publicity - 250



Journalists will follow the event by car and plane this time.

"I think the organizers of the event, Thierry Sabine, was very clever," Jean Todd, manager of the Peugeot team, says. "Europe in January is cold and wet so 600 bikes, lorries and cars heading for the sun and sand of Dakar capture the dreams of a lot of people, particularly at a time when there is not much to say about sport and little good news."

It is doubtful whether Sabine, who was killed in a plane crash on the event in 1986, would have appreciated the reference to his commercial acumen. He preferred to see himself as a man of the desert. He certainly would not have liked the strong scent of professional alarm which has begun to taint the "perfume of adventure".

This year, there are seven present or former Grand Prix drivers taking part and though one of them, Patrick Tambay, who will be driving a Camel Range Rover, describes the event as "quite fabulous - there are so many imponderables and sudden changes in fortune for everybody that just to reach Dakar is victory itself", none of the big three teams of Peugeot, Mitsubishi and Range Rover are likely to see it that way.

Victory is winning the rally and if the highly elasticated rules designed for the amateurs, have to be twanged a bit by the pros, so be it. But this year, the organizers are fighting back and it might just be the amateur who feels the full weight of their fury.

By common consent, they have devised the toughest course in the 10-year history of the event in an attempt to bring the powerful works teams back into line. But, asks Jean Todd, who will suffer most?

"The more difficult the course, the better the chances of the top teams. Human power has its limits. I hope this year the event has not gone over those limits otherwise it will be a nightmare and no-one will benefit. I am a bit scared," he says. Wacky Races or no, someone among the 670 competitors, it seems, is going to get hurt.

Gaynor in line to join Irish squad

By Dennis Shaw

The progress of Brian Clough's precocious young Nottingham Forest team has elevated Tommy Gaynor to European Championship reckoning after only five appearances. Gaynor, a £25,000 signing from Doncaster Rovers, has been earmarked by Jackie Charlton, the Republic of Ireland manager, for possible inclusion in his squad for West Germany.

Three goals in his first two home appearances have placed him alongside the more established forwards, Stapleton, Aldridge and Quinn, and in direct competition with Kelly, of Walsall. "I have had Gaynor watched and intend to see him for myself in the next few weeks," Charlton said. "I don't envisage making too many changes for the European Championship out of loyalty to my current squad but the door is not closed to anyone like Gaynor."

Gaynor is following the path of players like Nigel Clough, Glover, and other members of the Forest side, in laying the foundations of solid international careers.

Peacock fired by Gillingham

Keith Peacock was yesterday dismissed as manager of third division Gillingham, where he had been in charge since July 1981. Peacock's assistant, Paul Taylor, has been given the team manager's job until the end of the season.

Since Peacock's appointment, Gillingham have regularly been close to gaining promotion to the second division, and last season reached the division three play-off final. But they were beaten 6-0 at Aldershot on Monday.

Tottenham bank on Venables to capture Fenwick

By Dennis Shaw

Tottenham Hotspur have moved ahead of Arsenal as favourites to sign Terry Fenwick, the Queen's Park Rangers defender, in a £550,000 deal to join Terry Venables, his twice former manager.

The Tottenham manager, intimated that he would match Arsenal's offer after being given permission by Jim Smith, his Rangers counterpart, to open negotiations with the England defender and his financial advisers.

The stumbling block to an easy settlement for both Venables and George Graham, the Arsenal manager, has been the contract offered to Fenwick at Loftus Road. David Bulstrode, the chairman, believes it is the best in Rangers' history and as good as any in the Football League.

Part of the offer is a testimonial which could bring Fenwick £50,000.

Bulstrode and Smith confirmed yesterday that Arsenal and Tottenham were both interested in Fenwick.

While the player's personal terms were of prime interest, both clubs need to assure Fenwick, who is hopeful of regaining his place in the England side as a central defender, of his role if he moves.

Arsenal saw Fenwick as a right back and cover for David O'Leary and Tony Adams, Venables, who has been beset by player injuries since his return to White Hart Lane, may initially need him as a midfielder general.

Fenwick, who has won 19 caps for England and is the captain at Loftus Road, is in the happy position, because of the Rangers offer, to dictate the best terms. His contract ends this season and he has been in no hurry to accept any deals. Rangers, who valued Fenwick at £750,000, realize that if he completes his contract and the matter goes to a transfer tribunal, the fee could be considerably reduced.

Arsenal, who first contacted

Rangers before Christmas, responded to Tottenham's interest yesterday by increasing their offer to Fenwick. Bulstrode said: "Our offer is on the table. We must now see what happens with Arsenal and Tottenham."

● Norwich City have refused a £700,000 offer from Aberdeen for Kevin Drinkell, their highly rated forward.

Dave Stringer, Norwich's acting manager, said yesterday: "I'm sure our fans think enough of our big name players have left the club in recent years and I agree. We do not need the cash. Aberdeen have no chance of getting him and that goes for anybody else."

"Kevin has two years of a three-year contract still to run and he is not for sale."

Drinkell has been Norwich's top scorer for the past three seasons since joining from Grimsby Town for £110,000.

Croker set to guide United States World Cup push

By Stuart Jones

Ted Croker, the secretary of the Football Association, is acting as adviser to the United States in their attempt to stage the 1994 World Cup. With the consent of FIFA, the governing body, he has already been involved in informal discussions and has been invited to take a more formal role.

FIFA will make its decision in June next year and Croker could find himself straddling

the Atlantic. If the United States are selected as the hosts, he will assist in their early preparations as well as remaining in his domestic position. He is not scheduled to leave Lancaster Gate until February 1989.

He welcomed the approach from abroad. "I would like the United States to stage the World Cup because it would bring them into world football," he said yesterday. "Without them, the picture is not complete."

"The presentation of the Americans before the 1986 event was limited and inadequate. Had the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles been staged a year earlier, I think they would have had a far better chance."

"The gates for the football tournament, which is nothing compared to the World Cup, were the biggest of all. That gives an indication of the support they could have."

Croker said that his first priority would be "to make sure they have a team fit to play in the tournament for which they would automatically qualify."

The United States have submitted 16 stadiums, in-

cluding 10 with natural grass. Croker feels that the distances between them, which is thought to be a potential difficulty, should not be a cause for concern.

"The journeys in Brazil" - whom he feels are the other main contenders for hosting the World Cup - "would be enormous as well."

He accepts that Jose Havelange, the Brazilian president of FIFA, might favour his own homeland and especially since he will probably retire in 1994.

But during a recent visit to the United States with Gerry Blatter, the secretary of FIFA, Havelange was granted an audience with President Reagan. He may yet be persuaded to choose the wealthier option above his own sentiments. Brazil will not be able to afford the World Cup without substantial financial support.

UNITED STATES STADIUMS (North-east: Princeton, New Jersey (capacity 60,000); Franklin Field, Philadelphia (75,000); New York and Marine Corps, Annapolis (65,000); Southeast: Orange Bowl, Miami (75,000); Lake Lucerne, Florida (75,000); Orlando (60,000); Tampa (75,000); West: Los Angeles (90,000); Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City (70,000); Cotton Bowl, Dallas (72,000); Olympic Stadium, Minnesota (60,000); Sportsman's Field, San Diego (62,000); Seattle (72,000); Las Vegas (62,000); Oregon (41,000).

Everton give a pledge to fight to the finish

By Ian Ross

Everton have no intention of hauling down the Football League Championship pennant and running up the white flag of surrender at Goodison Park.

Colin Harvey, their manager, was in typically defiant mood yesterday, somewhat perplexed by suggestions that their Merseyside neighbours, Liverpool, have as good as breached the finishing tape in English football's great marathon.

Harvey's optimism is based almost solely on the belief that his players have the necessary character and skill to plunder a high percentage of the 54 points which are still available to them.

"Although we have reached

the quarter-final stage of the Littlewoods Cup and still have the FA Cup to look forward to, the League remains our number one priority. We have never made any secret of our desire to retain the title - that is the one we really want," he added.

Everton's defeat against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Monday left them in fifth place, 16 points behind Liverpool, who also have a game in hand.

"We missed chances at vital stages against United and we were paid to pay the price. I am sure that had we scored the game's first goal we would have gone on to win," said Harvey.

1988 world sports calendar

Tomorrow we publish our world sports calendar for 1988, containing details of all major events in the coming year ranging from archery to yachting.

Beecher a model LTA pupil

Colin Beecher, who has been a pupil at the Lawn Tennis Association's School of Excellence at Bisham Abbey since its inauguration in 1983, emphasized his potential with a second-round win in the Prudential British Junior covered court championships at Queen's Club yesterday.

Beecher, aged 17 and seeded second at Queen's, is in his first year as a junior, and aims to bow out on a high note by winning all three national titles: covered, hard and grass court. And he made a brisk start by taking his opening match, 6-4, 6-2, against Matthew Long, of Romford, after serving and volleying consistently throughout.

Beecher, from Bromley, who has also joined a business and finance course on the Government's Youth Training Scheme, got in front at 3-1 in the opening set and kept up the pace and initiative.

He receives a private sponsorship from Dewhurst, the butchers - which goes towards nourishing his 6ft 2in frame - and possessed too much power for Long yesterday. The Essex player's six double faults illustrated fully his own lack of consistency in the service game.

Sovereign rules on the Tasman waves

From Bob Ross, Hobart, Tasmania

Sovereign, the Sydney maxi yacht, owned by Bernard Lewis and skippered by David Kellett, yesterday took line honours in the AWA Sydney to Hobart race, 35 minutes ahead of Syd Fisher's Gazebo, which was another 22 minutes ahead of Apollo, skippered by Jack Rookey.

Sovereign came under constant pressure in the race from Gazebo - which was always in sight and at times almost ahead until the last night - and Apollo, both sailed by very good crews brought together especially for the event. Leading all the way, Sovereign was sailed conservatively by a compatible and competent crew.

"When we retired last year, I promised the crew we would be in this winner's corner this year," said Kellett. "It has been our whole goal."

Gazebo's challenge was frustrated when she split her main sail from luff to leech under the third reef points on Monday night when she was within two miles of Sovereign while beating down the Tasmanian coast in winds of 19 to 24 knots.

She had to sail for 12 hours under the storm trisail -

although the main sail was repaired sooner than that, the crew was not confident that the repair would hold and did not rehoist it until Gazebo rounded Tasman Island, 40 miles from the finish early yesterday morning.

Sovereign had to struggle the last miles up the Derwent River to the finish in variable winds, while Gazebo finished faster on freshening sea breeze. Kellett estimated that Sovereign had lost 14 miles of her lead to Gazebo in the last stretch from the middle of Storm Bay to the finish.

The corrected time winner of the race and the outcome of the Southern Cross Cup series will be decided this morning, while the smaller yachts still at sea had to cope with lighter winds on the Tasmanian coast last night.

At 3 p.m. yesterday the corrected time leader was Beyond Thunderdome (Warren Johns), from Sagacious V (Gary Appleby). To beat Sovereign's corrected time, Beyond Thunderdome has to cover 103½ nautical miles at an average speed of better than 5½ knots.

The Australian team still leads the Southern Cross Cup

Christie lines up

Linford Christie, the European champion at 100 metres, and Jamie Henderson, his junior counterpart, head a strong line-up of athletes at the Oron Games at Cosford, on January 8 and 9. Christie and Henderson will race in the 60 metres, and Christie will also compete in the 200m.

Yugoslav trial Ljudomir Radanovic, the Yugoslavia international defender, yesterday began a trial with Southampton with a view to a £250,000 transfer.

Wanted man

Oldham, the second division rugby league title favourites, have rekindled their interest in Errol Johnson, 20, the Leeds utility back Mike Ford, the Leigh scrum-half, for whom Oldham already have a £45,000 bid rejected, is also in their sights again.



Johnson beat Roche

Johnson award

Milan (AFP) - Ben Johnson, of Canada, who broke the 100 metres world record by a tenth of a second in winning the world championship in Rome, narrowly beat Stephen Roche, the world cycling champion from Ireland, for the title of Sportsman of the Year awarded by Italian sports newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport. Steffi Graf, the West German tennis player who is now ranked No. 1 in the world, took the women's award.

Double act

George Collins, unbeaten in 28 contests, and Floyd Havard, unbeaten in 15, both hope to extend their unbeaten records when they fight on promoter Frank Warren's first show of 1988, at Sabina Gardens, Cardiff, on January 12. They will face American opponents yet to be named.

Title defence

Peter Tootell, of Stretford AC, defends the title he won a year ago in the prestigious Morphet to Newcastle 14-mile road race on New Year's Day. It is to be his last major race until the United Kingdom cross-country trial at Gateshead at the end of January.

Piquet honour

Rio de Janeiro (Reuter) - Brazil has named two of its leading motor racing circuits - at Brasilia and Jacarepagua - after Nelson Piquet, the three-time world Formula One champion.

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